

# *Nebraska Central College and Academy*



*1899 - 1930*

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Nebraska Central  
College and Academy



1899 - 1930



## CONTENTS

Title	Pages
1899-1949	1-3
Friends in Nebraska	4-14
Friends Found Nebraska Central	15-27
Pioneering at College	28-40
The Emergence of a College Consciousness	41-57
Stemming the Tide	58-72
President Carrell Takes the Helm	73-86
From 1925-1930	87-100
List of NCC Presidents, Faculty & Staff Academy and College Classes through 1930	101-110
Pictures - Courtesy of Portia Reeves and Virginia Marsh	

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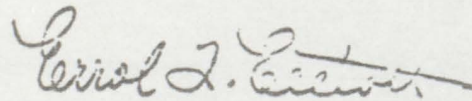
EARLHAM SCHOOL OF RELIGION  
EARLHAM COLLEGE  
RICHMOND, INDIANA

THE CROSBIE PAPERS

On Nebraska Yearly Meeting  
And Nebraska Central College

Under the counsel and arrangement of Ora W. Carrell, former President of Nebraska Central College, I secured from Hugh P. Mesner, Central City, Nebraska the history of Nebraska Yearly Meeting and Nebraska Central College as prepared by Milo and Julia M. Crosbie.

These two Friends were for many years teachers in Nebraska Central College. Deeply devoted friends, they have brought to these papers a memory of their years with the Yearly Meeting and the College. The story of Friends in Nebraska is one of devotion and heroism of a high order. These pages, I believe, will reflect the spirit of Quakerism on the prairies, all but unique in the larger Quaker story.



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August 1966  
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## 1899-1949

The Society of Friends in Nebraska felt in the eighteen-nineties the impulse of new life and activity. Its members, scarcely more than a thousand of them scattered throughout the state, thrilled to the transforming power of Christ in human lives. True to the practice of their Society since its organization in the seventeenth century, these Friends felt the need of a school where their children might be educated under Friendly influence. Although most of them were farmers with scanty incomes, they became interested in a three-story brick and stone structure left vacant near Central City and decided upon a great venture of faith. This building had been erected in 1885 by the Methodists of the North Nebraska Conference and later had been left idle when the Methodists of the state united in establishing Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln. Under the leadership of Herbert J. Mott, Turner Abel, Elwood Knight, and a few others, Friends secured this school property from James Stephen, a former stockholder, who at great sacrifice to himself had come into possession of it. He had made a very reasonable offer to Friends for the purchase of the college building and the half section of land on which it stood. This land, divided into blocks and lots, furnished building sites for Friends, and soon a Quaker community appeared on the college section. With few resources except a strong faith in God and a firm belief that they were acting under His guidance, Friends entered this new field of Christian service with confidence and enthusiasm.

On September 11, 1899, Nebraska Central College opened its doors as a Friends school. Forty students enrolled the first day. Others followed later. A faculty of eight experienced teachers, with D. Riley Haworth as President, organized and entered upon a vigorous school program. This program included a year of Normal School work, principally a review of either grade studies; two years of college preparatory or academy work; the freshman year of college work; and courses in the departments of art, business, vocal music, expression, and physical education.

Gradually the school expanded and went forward to new achievements. The first graduates from the College of Liberal Arts earned their Bachelor's Degrees in 1903. Increased library and laboratory facilities along with other improvements and an adherence to a high grade



of scholarship brought recognition to the school. In 1918, the State Department of Education gave the college power to grant Teacher's Certificates. The University of Nebraska recognized Nebraska Central College credits on an equal basis with credits from other denominational colleges of the state. In 1917, the college was authorized to grant Life Professional, First Grade State, and Elementary State Certificates. At the same time the academy, operating on a four-year basis since 1914, received the rating of Class A among the accredited high schools of the state, a rating which it maintained until it was discontinued in 1939. In 1918, Ora W. Carrell organized the department of religious education. However, courses in Bible study had always been an emphasized part of the curriculum. Later, other courses were added including preprofessional courses for Law, Medicine, Dentistry, and Nursing.

The college was constantly facing critical financial problems. In 1903, the situation became so acute that the suggestion was made that the school should be discontinued. An editorial in the Nebraska Friend of that date expressed a different view. "Almost everyone felt that the hand of God had led in establishing the work which we have undertaken and we have no right to abandon it or turn it over to others." Samuel A. Haworth in his message given when closing his work as President of the college that year, assured the church that as it was God's work it was bound to succeed if God's people did their duty and held steadfast. Many subsequent crises were met in the same spirit.

Needed improvements were made as funds permitted. President Eli H. Parisho initiated plans for the Girls' Dormitory, built in 1906-07. T. B. Hord, of Central City, donated a generous sum making possible the erection of Hord Hall in 1910-11, during the Presidency of Stacy J. McCracken. The installation of a general heating system came later. In 1918-19 President Homer J. Coppock led a movement which brought electricity to the campus. The College Auxiliary provided the Girls' rest room and the drinking fountain in the Main Building and many furnishings for dining room and dormitories. A shelter belt of 3000 trees, planted in 1941, is one of many improvements which Ora E. Carrell has actively promoted since he became President in 1921.

N.C.C. Students have participated in the usual extra-curricular activities. The Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A., later merged into the Student Christian Association, have provided



opportunities for the development of Christian leadership. Forensics have always been emphasized. Winners in State Oratorical and Extemporaneous contests and in intercollegiate debates have brought many laurels to Nebraska Central. The college has made a record of worthwhile achievements in athletics. State championships in basketball, state records in track, and seasons of football when victories outnumbered and overshadowed defeats have shown the mettle of N.C.C. athletes. Good sportsmanship in defeat as well as in victory has won praise from both opponents and spectators. In dramatics the production of plays has provided training for participating students and delightful entertainment for large and appreciative audiences. Many types of high quality drama have been presented. Musical organizations have included glee clubs, choirs, quartets, with an occasional band or orchestra. These together with soloists, both vocal and instrumental, have contributed greatly to the enjoyment of school life.

During the twenty-eight years that President Carrell's guiding hand has directed its course the college has passed through its most prosperous years of accomplishment in providing development and inspirations to young people who have gone out from its halls into lives of useful service. During that time the college also has met its greatest difficulties which only the courageous optimism and dauntless determination of President Carrell seemed able to overcome and able to make possible the continued progress of the school.

The venture of faith, under the blessing of God, has continued fifty years not only through the cooperation of the Yearly Meeting, the local community, the Board of Trustees, the Alumni, the faculty, and the students but also by the generous contributions of many eastern Friends and of many other Friends of Nebraska Central College.

Well may this year be named the year of the Golden Jubilee!

— Julia M. Crosbie, '11



## Friends in Nebraska

Friends, so far as records have been found, first came to Nebraska in 1869. Two years after statehood had been granted was a much later date than the entrance of the followers of George Fox into the adjoining state of Kansas, where Quakers had reached considerable numbers during the territorial conflict that they might help keep out slavery. On May 16, 1869 Samuel M. Janney, a Liberal Friends Minister from Alexandria, Virginia, arrived in Omaha to take up his work as superintendent of Indian affairs in Nebraska. Friends had received a letter from F. S. Parker, an Indian and a member of General Grants staff with this proposition: "General Grant the President-elect, desirous of inaugurating some policy to protect the Indians in their just rights and enforce integrity in the administration of their affairs as well as improve their general condition, and appreciating fully the friendship and interest which your Society has ever maintained in their behalf, directs me to request that you will send to him a list of names, members of your Society whom your Society will suggest for suitable persons for Indian agents."

In receiving this request the Committee on Indian Concerns had recommended to the President, Samuel M. Janney, who had once been appointed to the place. For representatives to all American Friends in conference had apportioned the various Indian territories to the Orthodox and the Liberal or Hicksite Branches and to the Liberal Branch was apportioned the Nebraska field. Other Friends came with Samuel Janney or followed soon after, each to be an agent of an individual tribe of Indians. These Friends were Asa W. Janney, brother of Samuel Janney as Agent of the Santee Sioux; Dr. Edward Painter, Agent of the Omahas; Albert Green, Agent of the Otoes; Jacob M. Throth, Agent of the Pawnees; Howard White of the Winnebagos and Thomas Lightfoot of the Iowa Sacs and Foxes. Over all of these Agents, Samuel W. Janney was to be the superintendent. He saw himself at once to the accomplishment of the duties of his office which proved to be strenuous enough for a man almost seventy. However, as a minister in the Society of Friends, he soon found opportunity for the exercise of his gift. He writes in his "Memoirs," "Having permission from our Monthly Meeting to appoint meetings for Divine worship, I held one in a public hall soon after my arrival. It was attended by one and two



hundred persons and toward the close was sole and impressive. There being in the city some persons formerly connected with our Society or educated among Friends, I invited such to stop at the rise of the meeting and likewise others who inclined to do so. A dozen or more accepted the invitation and we had a pleasant conference." This may have been the first Quaker meeting ever held in Nebraska.

Conscientiously, Samuel Janney and his corps of workers devoted themselves to the physical, mental and moral improvement of the tribes under their care. Evidently such improvement was needed. A memorial prepared by a convention composed of representatives from six Yearly Meetings of Friends was addressed to Congress in March, 1870, in which the conditions existing among the Indians of Nebraska were described. "These wards of the government," the memorial stated, "were found in a very depressed and degraded condition. As a general thing poor, hungry, idle from want of means and inducements to labor; destitute of suitable clothing; complaining of unfulfilled treaty stipulations; living in lodges, with several families in a single apartment\* \* \*; the lodges dark, unventilated \* \* \*; sickness abounding extensively, especially among the children - scrofulous gatherings and ulcers, sore eyes, debility and consumption." Among most of the tribes Rayner Kelsey tells us "the success of the Friends was scarcely less than remarkable. The Santee Sioux, Winnebago, Omaha and Iowa Indians, at the close of Friends' official service (about 1876), were living for the most part upon their own homesteads with comfortable houses and modern farming implements. They had ample school facilities and, in short, were well on their way to becoming well educated, self-supporting American citizens." Because the Pawnees were removed from their reservation along the Platte and Loup Rivers into Indian Territory in 1875, the work with them was interrupted and the agent and workers with that tribe found themselves without further duties or responsibilities. The beautiful valley left open for farming after the removal of the Indians, furnished a promising opportunity for them to find permanent homes for themselves. They accepted this opportunity and encouraged other Friends to come. Soon enough Liberal Friends had settled near Genoa to form a Friends Meeting. An extract from the minutes of Prairie Grove Quarterly Meeting held Sixth Month Fourth 1877, says that "a proposition was received for the establishment of a Monthly Meeting at Genoa. On the third Seventh Day in the Eighth Month next, to be auxiliary



to this Meeting which proposition was united with by this meeting." What seems to have been the first Monthly Meeting of Friends in Nebraska was organized on the date set. Some of these early Friends were Jacob M. Troth, George Truman, William Coffin, Barclay Jones, William Shotwell, Jacob Webster, William Burgess, Isaiah Lightner and their respective families. Isaiah Lightner, a minister, was the last of these officially appointed as Friends to serve as Indian agents in the state. After nine years of very satisfactory service with the Santee Sioux in Knox County, he withdrew in 1885 and brought his family to the Friends settlement at Genoa. Descendants of these Genoa Friends later were prominent students at Nebraska Central College. Another group of Liberal Friends located in and near Lincoln was organized into a Monthly Meeting in 1888 and was united with the Monthly Meeting at Genoa into what was called a Halfyearly Meeting which met twice a year – once at Genoa and once at Lincoln. These two meetings, because of scattered membership and other reasons gradually went down. The one at Lincoln was laid down first and finally in 1943 the meeting at Genoa was discontinued and the meetinghouse sold.

In the fall of 1869, young people came in covered wagons from the Orthodox Quaker center at Pleasant Plain, Iowa, to take homesteads in northeastern Nebraska. Aaron and Elijah Roberts, Aaron Smith, William Willis, all with their families, were the earlier settlers in Dixon County. A little later John Q. Emry and family, John Pales and family, and other individuals came. In the fall of 1881, a meeting for worship and a preparative meeting were established by Pleasant Plain Monthly Meeting. Spring Bank Monthly Meeting was set up by Pleasant Plain Quarterly Meeting March 25, 1882, with twenty-nine members. In February 1883 the Monthly Meeting was transferred to the jurisdiction of Greenville Quarterly Meeting in northwestern Iowa, as that was nearer than Pleasant Plain Quarterly Meeting. The first Quarterly Meeting of Friends ever held within the limits of what is now Nebraska Yearly Meeting was when Greenville Quarterly Meeting, Iowa was held at Spring Bank October 13, 1888. In 1892 a Spring Bank Quarterly Meeting was organized, of which Edwin Andrews was the first clerk. These sturdy pioneers became prosperous farmers. They planted groves and orchards and did much to make the region one of beauty and plenty. But their meeting was the center of their community life. Auxiliary meetings grew up. Spring Bank claims as some of its offspring: Elk Valley Monthly Meeting, near Waterbury, Nebraska; Kemma Monthly Meeting, in Knox



County; Plainview Monthly Meeting, at Plainview; New Hope Monthly Meeting, near Hay Springs. This quarterly meeting is now one of the strongest in the state.

Another group of Friends (Orthodox as were all the Friends hereafter mentioned settled in southeast Fillmore County and in 1873 requested of Bear Creek Monthly Meeting in Dallas County, Iowa, the organization of a preparative meeting at Pleasant Ridge Council House. This request was granted and the meeting was established in July 1873. Included in this group were Jesse Griffiths - a minister - William F. Angstead, Addison J. Thomas, David Hadley, Cyrus McPherson and their respective families. For a short time only did this meeting prosper. The droughts and grasshopper plagues of the seventies compelled some of the families to give up their homes and go where land was cheaper. The few Friends remaining joined with some Christians to keep up a Union Sunday School. In the early eighties, five Friends families from near Salem, Iowa, came to southeast Saline County just a few miles from Pleasant Ridge School House. A few others came from other points. Together with those remaining at 'Pleasant Ridge' those newcomers requested of Pleasant View Quarterly Meeting in Reading County, Kansas, the establishment of a Monthly Meeting of Friends: at Triumph School House five miles northwest of Tobias. The request was granted and the meeting established in 1886. During the first year with the approval of the Quarterly Meeting, the meeting recorded three of its members.- William E. Angstead, Anna Thomas and Solomon L. Hull. The two latter became bulwarks later in the work of the meeting and college at Central City. Triumph Monthly Meeting continued until about 1901; after that an occasional meeting was held until 1908. The cause of its discontinuance was the removal of its members, many of them to the vicinity of Clarks and Central City. This began in the early nineties and was made more general by the severe drought of 1893 and '94.

Another Friends Meeting that has its origin in the migrating of Friends to this state from Iowa was the one organized in Sheridan County by Bangor Quarterly Meeting of Iowa, where a number of its members had found homes for themselves on the north side of Pine Ridge in 1888. This Monthly Meeting is known as the Sheridan County Monthly Meeting of Friends of Beaver Valley. Elwood Knight served it as pastor, and thus began what proved to be a lifelong service



as a pastor to Nebraska people. Later these people all moved away, many of them to Central City to gain the opportunities of the College for their children.

About twenty miles southwest of the Pine Ridge region, another settlement of Iowa Friends was formed in 1892 and a Friends Meeting was set up that was known as New Hope Monthly Meeting. Joseph and Rhoda Eleckledge and John and Jane Mendenhall, three of them being Friends ministers were leaders in this work. This meeting had serious difficulty in keeping up the work on account of the constantly shifting population which is a condition characteristic of much of rural Nebraska, due to uncertain crop conditions. This meeting has had representatives in the student body in Nebraska Central College.

Gosper County was another place where Friends acted and sought to establish a Friends Meeting. Coming in 1880 and the year following, they began in 1882 to hold Union Sunday School and later in connection with it was to hold service for Divine worship. Under the leadership of George McGraw, a Friends minister from Iowa who settled there in the later eighties, a monthly meeting was established in 1889 and known as Pleasant Hill Monthly Meeting, though the name was later changed to Gosper Monthly Meeting. In 1890 this meeting had sixty members and Elwood, a meeting nearby, had thirty members. George McGraw was instrumental in the establishing of a monthly meeting at a place about twenty miles north of Pleasant Hill called Highland. Both of these meetings he served as pastor for twelve years, going to the places on alternate Sundays. These meetings too, lost most of their membership during the dry years and in 1902 were discontinued.

Perhaps if Friends in Nebraska were to choose a red-letter day for their calendar, they would select for the day that Herbert J. Mott found an open door for Quaker ministry and entered. For this event marked the beginning of Herbert Mott's years of devotion to Nebraska Quakerism. He was then a young man of 25 years. His parents, Washington Irving and Martha DeVoll Mott were New York Friends who had moved to Virginia when Herbert was still a small child. Because they had found no Friends Meeting there, they, with their minor children united with the Methodist Church South. In 1879 they came to Nebraska where they took a homestead near Wilsonville in southwest Furnas County. Herbert, then a boy in his teens, had already taken preparative school work at Emery and Henry college at Emery, Virginia. On August 31, 1882, he



was licensed to preach in the Methodist Church and when 19 years of age was installed as pastor of the West Beaver Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It was a new field, no church ever having been established near there. The churches were split up, one at Lebanon and one at Danbury that year. The next year he was sent to another mission post, there again two new churches were established. When licensed to preach, Herbert Mott was told by the presiding elder that in the doctrinal examinations for those first two years, all reference to doctrines held by Friends should be entirely omitted. This was done faithfully and during those two years no Methodist ever dreamed that he was not a Methodist in doctrine. When the time came for the taking of the sacrament he was conveniently absent and the presiding elder took charge of the service. This plan worked splendidly for a probation period, but when the youngster, after two years of preaching and study found it impossible to accept fully the doctrine of the church he was serving, it was mutually agreed that the service should be discontinued. Without an unkindly word or any break in loving fellowship he resigned every official relation to the Methodist Episcopal Church. Then he sent a written request to become a member of the Religious Society of Friends in Morea Monthly Meeting where he had become a member by birth twenty-one years before. This request traveled over many miles from his home in western Nebraska to his childhood home in New York. Herbert J. Mott then attended Mallieu University for one year. Later he attended Fort Edward College in New York state. In 1889 he was recorded a minister of the gospel. He told us he was thus recorded with four generations of relatives seated on the Facing Seat. Lidia Mott Garry (his father's sister), Jonathan and Mary Jane DeVoll (his mother's parents) and Abner and Comfort DeVoll (his great grandparents) all recorded ministers of Jesus Christ.

November 1888, Herbert Mott left his father's home to visit his sister, Mrs. Philip Marshall at Benkelman. While there he went to Neel one day for his brother-in-law to collect a bill for lumber sold. Neel was an inland town more than 40 miles northwest. His errand accomplished by noon, he stopped at the hotel for lunch. Here at the same table with him sat the editor of the local paper, a Mr. Kenny, who, alert for bits of news, inquired his name and the nature of his visit. Mr. Mott replied that he was a minister and there in Neel on a business errand for his brother-in-law. Mr. Kenney at once urged him to hold a gospel service in Neel, since the



town was wholly without church privileges. He and a few other Christian people had been keeping a Union Sunday School but without preaching services. Herbert Mott, in a letter to Dr. W. K. Stewart, telling this story says: ( extract from letter) "As soon as I mentioned that I was a minister, Mr. Kenny forgot all business interest and began to urge me to preach for them on the following Sunday. I thanked him for the invitation but told him I was returning to Benkelman that afternoon.

"That was Thursday, the day the Signal was printed. After I left town Mr. Kenny had an inspiration. Without mentioning the subject to me, he placed a half-page announcement in his paper that I would preach in the town hall the following Sunday morning. In very large type he advised the public that I was a noted Quaker minister and that to hear me would be an opportunity of a lifetime. Then Mr. Kenny wrote me a letter of apology, sending me a copy of the announcement concerning the preaching service, and mailed the same to me in care of my brother-in-law at Benkelman. He urged me to come, saying he would send someone with a buggy for me Saturday morning. He added that if it were impossible for me to fill the appointment, he would confess the liberty he had taken in the next week's issue of his paper. I received the latter on Saturday morning. There was no telephone, no telegraph, or other means of getting in touch with him for a reply, but soon P.N. Williamson came with a ride in a horse and buggy, for me.

Sunday morning the town hall was filled to capacity for two reasons: First, I was a Quaker and few people in this new land had ever heard one preach; second, the homesteaders had been there for two or three years and many of them had not once had an opportunity to hear a gospel sermon. I delivered an ordinary morning sermon. Before the meeting was finished Mr. Kenny rose in the congregation and asked if I would preach again that night and invited all those who would like to hear me to stand. As I was very much in evidence, the good people almost had to stand. The night was a gospel meeting. My subject was, 'Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest'. I spoke on the Rest of Christ. I had little part in it, but God, the Holy Spirit, was present in mighty power. Near the close of the meeting over eighty persons responded to an invitation to thus confess their need of Christ. That surprised me, and then I surprised them by announcing that there would be a meeting there the following night.



I made this announcement without an invitation and without consulting any one. It was six weeks before this series of meetings closed."

In the following spring, Hiawatha Monthly Meeting was established with a membership of seventy. By the end of the year it had grown to one hundred and twelve. That summer, Bates Monthly Meeting was established just seven miles from Hiawatha. What this work meant to this community and how Herbert Mott was esteemed by the people there is told by Dr. W. E. Stewart of Stratton, Nebraska, in his "Homestead days at Hiawatha", a chapter in the "History of Dundy County", as written and compiled by Miss Leona McAllister, Parks, Nebraska, and published in "The Benkelman Post and News Chronicle", March 1, 1937, from which the following paragraphs have been borrowed,

"About this time an event occurred which, to my mind, merits first place in this local history in that it opened the door of opportunity to the young men and women of this homestead country and made Neel outstanding as a religious and educational center, and the influences that grew out of it as eternal as the heavens. This event was the arrival in Neel, one day late in November, 1888, of a young man of 25 fresh from an eastern college. His manner and personality bespoke not merely a high quality of intellect, but culture and character, an earnestness and an understanding that inspired confidence and still more, there was an unmistakable evidence of a forcefulness and an ability to carry on to great heights in achievement. This young man was the Rev. Herbert J. Mott, a Quaker. Neel welcomed the new minister. His preaching drew great crowds, and, without the emotionalism that characterized the work of many evangelists in those days, Brother Mott, in a sane and sensible way, united the people of many denominations in the worship of God and in carving out a great social and educational program at Neel. This work of nearly fifty years ago would be outstanding today and a credit to any community under modern religious interpretations.

"Reverend Mott not only succeeded in his evangelical work in the organization of a strong church in the community, but through his efforts, the sons and daughters of these western prairies

were given the most unusual opportunities for higher educational privileges, for at that time there



was not a town in all southwestern Nebraska that supported even a high school, and none that offered college preparatory courses or cultural training.

"He wanted the people of his congregation to have a church home; he wanted the young people to have better school advantages. But homesteaders were poor – it required the most careful management to provide the bare necessities of life, and to build a church and school at the time was too much to even consider. What did this young minister – a mere boy himself – do to help these pioneers? He went east, into the territory where he had received his college training, where people lived in financial comfort. There he pled from the pulpit in behalf of our new building – the Hiawatha Academy was under construction. More than that, he induced a fine type of college men and women into our community, where they gave the best within themselves to the young of our prairies. \*\*\*

"During the summer of 1889, by Petition to the Post Office Department in Washington, D.C., the name of the town of Neel was changed to Hiawatha. \*\*\*

"In September, 1889, the Hiawatha Academy was established, with classes held in the town hall, under the principalship of Prof. W. C. Pidgeon, who came from the Friends Academy at Washington, Kansas. The new building was not completed in time for the opening of the 1890-91 term so the first semester's work was conducted in connection with the public school, with Prof. Pidgeon and Miss Mattie McPherson in charge. The next year's classes were held in the fine new building with Prof. F. K. Swaisgood as principal."

In November 1889, Iowa Yearly Meeting established the first quarterly meeting of Friends in Nebraska. Hiawatha Quarterly Meeting, composed of Bates and Hiawatha Monthly Meetings. Within one year six other meetings were established making eight in all. \*\*\*By the end of the year 1890 regular services were being held in fourteen points in three counties but with only seven ministers in the field." The great need for Christian leadership was an impelling motive in the establishing of Hiawatha Academy. It is interesting to note that during the year that Professor Swaisgood was principal, "forty of the students were taken into membership with Friends, several of whom later were recorded ministers." The terrible drought years of the nineties took their toll. As a result of the almost total crop failures, about three-fourths of these homesteaders left the country. The school was closed never to be reopened though the building



was used for sixty years as a meetinghouse. Though this attempt at a training school did not succeed, the need was no less. The reestablishment of that work was kept constantly as an aim before the group.

By 1898 only four meetings of Hiawatha Quarter had survived - Hiawatha, Douglas, Greenfield, and Pleasant Valley, and the following year they became a part of the Nebraska Church and Education of Friends.

Beginning in 1898 a group of Friends settled in the Platte Valley near Clarks, Nebraska. Wm. and Esther Abel came with their family from Mahaska County, Iowa. The Jurnace Hollingsworth family and the B. C. Stanley family were other Friends who settled in this community. A monthly meeting called Platte Valley Monthly Meeting was established in 1887 by Pleasant View Quarter of Kansas Yearly Meeting. B. S. Abel (son of Wm. and Esther Abel) and Susannah Hollingsworth were the first clerks. For a number of years the meeting was held in the schoolhouse three miles west of Clarks. A meetinghouse was built in Clarks in 1892. The meeting was strengthened by the coming of several Friends families from Triumph Monthly Meeting near Tobias. A pastor was secured and Platte Valley Monthly Meeting seemed well established.

About forty miles up the Platte Valley to the southwest near the town of Alda in Hall County, another Friends family had settled and had helped to establish and carry on a Sunday School in the schoolhouse. Benjamin Comptom and family, by their faithful Christian service and influence had built up a community life that was eager for the gospel message.

As a result of Herbert Mott's work in the establishment of Quakerism in western Nebraska, urgent calls came to him from Benjamin Abel of Clarks and Benjamin Comptom of Alda for help in presenting the Quaker message in the central part of the state. These Friends assured him that the field was ready for harvest. In the winter of 1894-1895 he held a two-weeks series of meetings at Center schoolhouse six miles northwest of Alda where Benjamin Compton was serving as Superintendent of the Sunday School. These meetings were very successful and were followed by a five-week series of meetings held in the Union Church in Alda, which resulted in a general awakening. Monthly Meetings were organized the following summer in both communities and at Scheurerville five miles southeast of Alda. That same year Herbert



Mott held meetings at Clarks, where the work was greatly built up and a new Monthly Meeting was organized at Prairie View, a rural community north of Clarks. These seven monthly meetings made up Platte valley Quarterly Meeting that had been established as the result of this extension work.

In 1897 under the leadership of Herbert J. Mott, a monthly meeting was organized at Pleasant Hill in Valley County, where a few Friends and others had carried on a Sunday School and prayer meeting for some time previous to this date. Pleasant Hill was located southeast of North Loup where the following winter another monthly meeting was established under the ministry of H. J. Mott. The monthly meetings in Central Nebraska now numbered seven, two in Merrick County, three in Hall County, and two in Valley County. Orthodox Friends at this time had monthly meetings in twelve different counties of Nebraska, and many of these were wholly without pastoral care. They lacked a unification bond to hold them together. Most of the meetings were unacquainted with each other. More and more strongly the need for some trained workers in the field was being felt by the leaders. Even more eagerly an opening for the establishing of a "School of the Prophets" was being sought. Already Friends were hoping that the fulfillment of their needs might be found in school property then left unused near Central City.



## Friends Found Nebraska Central

"Nestling in the broad valley of the Platte 130 miles from Omaha as the river runs, is the well-built county seat of Merrick County. The inhabitants numbering 1,400 are sober, industrious and well-to-do, for Central City is a radical temperance town with not a single saloon in sight. The altitude is 1,500 feet above sea level, the atmosphere pure and invigorating, the climate mild and beautiful, and the skies as clear and blue as the eyes of a Saxon baby"

The above description, taken from the American Friend of January 25, 1899, was Absalom Rosenberger's picture of Central City as he saw it when he came to help with the dedication of the new church in January of that year. For various reasons this place was fast becoming the center of interest for Nebraska Quakerdom.

In 1885, Central City was chosen to be the location for an institution of learning established by the North Nebraska Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The school was to be called the "North Nebraska Conference College." The first session of this school was held in the fall of 1885 in Liberty Hall on the second floor, the upstairs rooms of the building now occupied by the Safeway store. Construction work had already been begun on a building for the school, the corner stone having been laid and the building dedicated on July 28, 1885. About two miles northwest of the business part, the center of a 640-acre tract of land that had been platted into lots for homes and was called the College Section. On December 4 of that same year a heavy wind storm blew down the north and west walls of the building. However, the damages were repaired in time for the opening of the winter term in the new building on January 11, 1886.

In that year, the Nebraska Conference decided to locate a University at Lincoln, but Nebraska Central College, as it had then come to be called, continued its work. For the next three years it enjoyed the healthiest years of its life under the Methodist regime. During that time it reached an enrollment of 150 students. The first class graduated in June 1889. Almost an entire change of the faculty was made that fall and the name reverted back to "North Nebraska Conference Seminary." The second and last commencement took place in the spring of 1890. Due to the heavy financial burden it was bearing the College failed to open that fall. An attempt at reorganization in 1891 resulted in the carrying on of the work for one more year when the school was again laid down.



Thus, as a result of the very stringent financial period reaching its darkest hour in 1897, a well-built, three-story brick and stone structure was left idle. It was a 70 x 74 foot building that had been erected at a cost of \$17,000. The Methodists were concentrating all their efforts on Nebraska Wesleyan University at Lincoln and were giving up their original plan of maintaining a school in each of their separate conference territories. The three trustees of Nebraska Central College upon whom the financial responsibility rested assumed the indebtedness and became joint owners of the building and land. Because joint ownership was unsatisfactory, James Stephen offered the other two shareholders 25 per cent of their investment for their share of the holdings. This offer they accepted. He sold his lumber yard, which had become a prosperous business place in Central City, raised all the money he could from other sources; then he paid the required amount and secured the deed from the other stockholders. Thus he became sole owner of the college building and the land that belonged with it, though the cost eventually included the sacrifice of the beautiful and commodious home just north of the Methodist church in town.

One of the first demands that new ownership made upon James Stephen was the need of someone to care for the newly acquired property. For this purpose he employed Mr. and Mrs. James Henderson, who, with their four-year-old son, moved into the college basement and served as caretakers of the building and grounds from April 1894, until October 1895. During that time they set out one hundred trees, and, in an effort to save them from the drought, carried large quantities of water to them every day except Sunday for several weeks.

A hail storm from the east while they were at the college broke the glass in the east windows. Only recently arrived from Scotland, they were unfamiliar with hail, and when the stones began crashing through the windows, both Mr. and Mrs. Henderson took refuge on chairs for safety. Many interesting incidents marked their stay in the college building, some of which brought them more merriment when they were recalled by memory than when actually experienced.

The last week of February 1898, James and Orissa K. Stephen and family moved into the college basement. To every member of the family it was a momentous event. Even Snowball and Diogenes, the family cats, were provided with special conveyance to their new abode. A young daughter wrote in her mother's diary, the former made the journey in a washing machine and the latter in a basket. "I like to live in the college," she observed, "It is big. It is in the country." The



chapel room was filled with baled hay. One of the other rooms served as a granary for oats. A severe wind and hail storm had broken the glass in the windows and boards had been nailed over these windows to keep out the rain and snow. But the halls echoed with the laughter of children, and the basement had the cheerful atmosphere of a Christian home. Whatever heartache the mother felt on account of leaving her comfortable city residence was bravely hidden from her family. James Stephen and his son, James, Junior, farmed the college land with very little hired help. At the end of the summer Orissa Stephen wrote in her diary: "This has been one of the busiest, happiest summers I ever spent." For two and a half years the Stephen family lived at the college and farmed the college section. Opportunities came to dispose of the plant, but James and Orissa Stephen didn't feel free to accept any of them.. An inquiry was made by a representative of brewery interests in Omaha. He came to the home when James Stephen was away, but he received from Mrs. Stephen all the information he needed. That staunch W.C.T.U. worker told him in no uncertain terms that the building could not be obtained for such purposes. When the knowledge of this inquiry came to the husband, his righteous indignation knew no bounds. A nobler destiny, he felt sure, was in store for this structure of brick and stone B one whereby lives should be saved, not destroyed.

On June 25, 1896, at Clarks, Nebraska, the Nebraska Association of Friends for Educational Purposes held a meeting in which Herbert J. Mott gave an address on the benefits that would be derived from buying the college property at Central City and starting a Friends school there. That Friends were interested is evident from the fact that they adopted a constitution and bylaws and took steps toward establishing the Association on a permanent basis. Almost two years later, on May 20, 1898, a meeting was held at North Loup, Nebraska, in which Herbert J. Mott was president for the day and Elwood Knight secretary for the day. A reorganization was accomplished and by motion of Oliver T. Underwood, the securing of the school property at Central City was placed in the hands of the executive committee.

This action was a venture of faith, for the Association had no financial resources with which to support the executive committee. But the members had a strong conviction that Nebraska Friends should have a school for their young people and a place of training for their Christian workers. "Only those understanding conditions obtaining them," wrote Herbert J. Mott, "can appreciate the great burden that rested upon our hearts. \* \* \* Only God and the angels of Heaven



will ever know how they held on to the Throne of Grace until light and healing and victory came. The hour struck. To our inexpressible joy, the order came to go forward. It was a never-to-be-forgotten day in the summer of 1898. Turner L. Abel, Charles White, John Cole, Elwood Knight, Benjamin S. Abel, and Herbert J. Mott spent a day in conference and prayer at the residence of John Cole at Clarks, Nebraska. Wonderfully the Divine presence filled the place where we were assembled. In that glad hour, with a reach of faith that almost startled us, it was unanimously determined to establish a SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS. "Peace, wonderful peace and glory filled our souls. In that hour we entered into partnership with Heaven in which we were to furnish the faith and God everything else. We had no money, but we did have a far greater treasurer, an Unlimited Almighty God. We were assured by faith that out of that Unlimited Supply, our Infinite God would abundantly supply our every need."

James Stephen learned of this determination of Friends to found a school and invited them to a conference. Although he was unacquainted with Friends as a people, he gave the committee a frank, kindly reception and told them of his determination to hold the building for "Things worthwhile." Arrangements were made for a fifteen-months' option of purchase on three hundred acres of the east half of the College Section for \$9000. This tract of land included that on which the college building stands, but exclusive of the building itself, the land had formerly been valued at \$100 per acre. That this was a liberal offer on the part of James Stephen, did not make it an easy one for Friends to accept. Nebraska Friends were not wealthy as a class. But confident of Divine leadership, the committee signed the contract and paid a dollar down to make it legal.

The College Section had been platted when the building was first erected. The executive committee of the Association proceeded to sell one or more lots to individual Friends who wished to locate near a Friends school. As the land then was a big cornfield, imagination as well as faith was required of the prospective buyer to see here the possible cation. Fourteen lots made up a block, and a block (which contained between four and five acres) was priced at \$175.00. Elwood Knight, the president of the Executive Board, was made the principal salesman; assistants were C.C. Schultz, Benjamin Compton and T. L. Abel.

At a board meeting held at Central City, October 4, 1898, the name of the association was changed to "The Nebraska Church and Educational Association of Friends" and was authorized to confer with suitable instructors to manage the school for the coming year, beginning in September



1899. The plan then was to establish a Friends Academy, but at a meeting on April 15, 1899, the board unanimously elected Herbert J. Mott president for the first year, and a little later mention is made of arranging a curriculum for the college. It was only after mature deliberation that Nebraska Friends determined that their school should be a college rather than a school for secondary education only. This decision was momentous in that it entailed a far greater responsibility both in establishment and maintenance than would have been involved in setting up a school of academic rank only. However, the founders felt that both the expectation and the need of those who were to be served by the school demanded that it be of college rank. The freshman course was to be offered the first year and another added each year until the four-year course was being given. These plans were adopted and on October 7 were filed at the county court house by the action of a committee composed of H. J. Mott and C. Schultz, who had been appointed for that purpose. This action opened the way for important steps which followed immediately. In the November 3, 1898, issue of the Central City Nonpareil appeared the following article:

#### About the College

On the fifth of last month, the college property northwest of town was transferred to Friends. Arrangements have been made to put the property in thorough repair early next year. The rededication will be in June, and the school will open on the second Monday in September 1899. By act of the Nebraska Church and Educational Association of Friends, and as provided in its Articles of Incorporation, this institution has been made the permanent, principal school under our care in Nebraska. Schools of academic grades may be established elsewhere in the state, subordinate to this. Central City has also been made the central point of operation of our church work. The Annual Association will meet here each year beginning on the third Wednesday in June. To give the school a stronger local support, the east half of the section is being sold in small tracts, five and ten acres, to our people for homes. Central City having been made the center of both the educational and religious interests of our church in Nebraska, it is expected that a large number of Friends will find



homes in the town and surrounding country. It is purposed to erect a church building in town at once if sufficient funds can be secured. The early maturity of our general plan and its larger success depends upon building the church at once. Already a large interest has been awakened and many are kindly helping to make it possible by subscription, solicitation, and kind words. Help is most effective when needed most, and under such circumstances is never forgotten. We desire to help lift the standard of higher education, sterling integrity and pure living. We welcome this opportunity to express the kindly appreciation we feel to those whose public spirit and Christian liberality made this movement possible\*\*\*. It is our purpose by earnest effort, conservative management and Divine assistance to build up an institution that will be of real help to Central City, an inspiration to our youth and a benediction to humanity; that shall in every essential sense fulfill the thought and purpose of those whose toil, sacrifice, and means gave it birth B a monument to their memory.\*\*\* On behalf of Friends,

Herbert J. Mott

The first week of November 1898, the Stephen family moved from the college to a residence formerly a dormitory just south of the west side of the campus. H. J. Mott and family moved from Hastings, Nebraska, to the college basement that he might more easily help forward the work Friends had undertaken. Seth Compton also moved into the college to serve as caretaker of the building and grounds.

The "Central City Democrat" of November 10, 1898, contained the following item: "Friends have purchased a lot of Joe Phelps as the site on which they will build their new church. The lumber has been contracted and work will begin immediately. The Christian community as well as the business men welcome this new enterprise and pray God;s richest blessing upon it." The people contributed liberally. Turner Abel turned over his bank account to Herbert Mott, telling him to draw thereon until the meeting house was completed. Herbert Mott joined his corps of helpers and, in



workman's garb, carried brick and mortar or lifted and nailed the timbers to their places. By the middle of January the building was finished and ready for use. It was a neat structure, 40 x 40, with 200 substantial assembly chairs and drop seats around three walls. Well lighted, heated, and furnished, it was a place of which Friends and the people of Central City might well be proud. For Central City citizens had manifested their deep interest in having Friends undertake to reopen the college by contributing in cash \$1300.00 of the \$1650.00 required to build the house. Over the door outside stood the unostentatious words: Friends Meeting House. The time for dedication was set for January 15. President Rosenberger, of Penn College, preached the dedicatory sermon. In describing the event he wrote: "Every available foot of space was occupied and scores could not gain admittance. In the audience were persons who had not been in a sanctuary for years. In solemn stillness, with bowed heads, there was a reverent waiting upon the Lord. In a few plain words Zenas L. Martin, Superintendent of Evangelistic Work in Iowa Yearly Meeting, set forth the purpose and responsibilities of the new undertaking, and earnest prayers ascended from many hearts that Jesus Christ might ever be the Head thereof."

The occasion was very impressive - the more so because at this time the only member of this branch of Friends living in Central City was Bertha Wadsworth, a teacher in the city schools.

Immediately following the dedication a series of Gospel meetings was held under the leadership of Herbert J. Mott. Much interest was shown and at the close there were many applications for membership with Friends. A preliminary monthly meeting was organized in March, and within a year from the time of dedication, the church had a membership of more than one hundred. That number included many Friends who by that time had come to Central City because of the school.

At the same board meeting on October 4, 1898, that had made final preparation for the transfer of the college property to Friends, the president of the Association, Elwood Knight, was authorized to confer with suitable instructors to manage the school for the coming year beginning in September 1899. The plan then was to establish a Friends Academy. After much correspondence and consideration of almost forty applicants, the board at its meeting April 13, 1899, unanimously elected Herbert J. Mott to serve as president the first year. This action met with general approval. The Central City Nonpareil of April 27 said: "The success that has attended his efforts thus far in this movement commends the wisdom of the course of the board, and the Nonpareil believes the



action in naming him as the first President of the college is a very wise one." From that time plans were made for having not only an academy but also a college.

In making this decision to have a school of college rank the board may have been influenced by the pleading of James Stephen that the name of the institution might still be Nebraska Central College. Though he had never attended a Friends Meeting until the dedication of the new meetinghouse, he had joined Friends and had become one of most earnest and capable supporters of the new undertaking.

The first issue of The Nebraska Friend, the official organ of "Nebraska Church and Educational Association of Friends," appeared in June 1899. Herbert J. Mott was the editor. "It is our purpose," he wrote editorially, "to keep the work of the church, its interests and needs prominently before our circle of readers\*\*\*. Then we want to tell you about our college, your children that will be here, and the faculty having its management. In this work we expect the cooperation of our entire membership.

"In this morning hour we sound no trumpet, but, confident that our mission is of Heaven, in restful dependence upon Christ and His church, we go forward, expecting that 'at evening time there shall be light'." This paper was sent, so far as possible, to every Friend's home in Nebraska.

The first annual meeting of the Nebraska Church and Educational Association of Friends was held at the college June 20-26. Of this meeting the July issue of The Nebraska Friend said: "In this early morning, this dawn of new life in relation to Quakerism in Nebraska, the pulse quickens as we comprehend in part the far-reaching results of this forward movement. \* \* \* Z. L. Martin touched the keynote when he said: 'You are making history.' Never before has Nebraska witnessed such a gathering of Friends. \* \* \* Representatives were present from Iowa, Wisconsin, and Colorado. Nebraska was represented by delegates from Boyd, Chase, Dundy, Perkins, Knox, Dixon, Cedar, Valley, Greeley, Sherman, Hall, Adams, Saline, Nance, and Merrick Counties. The delegates in attendance outside of those from this city numbered sixty-two.

About five hours a day were devoted to Bible study and conference. From 11:00 to 12:00 a.m. the business sessions of the Association were held. When the business affairs of the Association and College were discussed, reports from the different officers and Quarterly meetings were submitted to the delegates and general business was transacted.



On Sunday, June 26, the college was rededicated to the service of our youth and to the Glory of God.

The dedication service was conducted by William Jasper Hadley, president of the Evangelistic Board of Iowa Yearly Meeting. S. Adelbert Wood of New Providence, Iowa, preached the dedicatory sermon and emphasized the importance of Christian education. Following the sermon, the financial needs of the college were presented and a popular subscription of \$550.00 was taken to aid in furnishing the college.

At a business meeting of the College Board, twelve hundred dollars were placed at the disposal of the repair and furnishing committee. This amount was made up of the popular subscription and of money received as commission for the sale of land.

During the week one hundred and fifty lots on the college section were purchased by Friends. Immediately the sound of saw and hammer was prominent, and neat cottages and more commodious dwellings soon dotted the east half of the college section. An eight-room frame structure was erected on the campus by Joseph Phelps to be used as a boys' dormitory. It was located directly east of the college building and was called, in honor of its builder-owner, Phelps Hall. The college building itself was thoroughly renovated, the outside of the building being freshly painted, the inside painted, papers and newly furnished.

In the meantime, with funds secured as commission on the sale of land as provided in the contract, the Association secured a deed for the college building and 27 acres of campus. On file in the county clerk's office are records of two deeds of interest. On Nov. 8, 1898 was filed a deed from James and Orissa K. Stephen to the Nebraska Church and Educational Association of Friends for the north 4/7 of the college campus, the consideration being \$456.00. On August 2, 1900, another deed was filed in which the same parties are involved and the transfer is that of the remaining 3/7 of the campus. The consideration for this 3/7 was \$856.

Of the 72 blocks of land (each block containing 14 lots) which the Association had undertaken to sell, all except 20 lots had been sold and the college property was free from all indebtedness.

The college doors were opened to receive students on September 11. The faculty that had been secured by Herbert J. Mott and the executive board of the "Nebraska Church and Educational Association of Friends" to teach the first year included, for president, D. Riley Haworth, A.M. of



Maryville, Tennessee; Professor of Science and Mathematics, Alvah J. Macy, of Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana; Professor of Languages, Miss Carol M. Roberts, A.B. of Penn College, Oskaloosa, Iowa; Preceptress and Professor of History and Literature, Miss AraBelle Perryman, graduate from the normal department of the University of Kansas, Instructor in Fine Arts, Miss Lorena M. Hathaway, a graduate of Nelson's College of Arts, Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois; Instructor in Elocution, Mrs. Daity Nettleton, graduate of De Pauw College of Oratory, New Albany, Indiana; Principal of the Commercial Department, R.D. Pickett, graduate of the Business Department of Avalon College, Trenton, Missouri; Instructor in Vocal Music, E.A. Spear, a student in Moody's Institute, Chicago, Illinois, for three years in notation, harmony, voice culture, and chorus work. Herbert Mott, who in April had been elected president was now serving as business manager and still held a vital relationship toward the school. He was also the pastor of the new meeting in Central City.

Five courses leading to graduation were offered, -namely, Classical, Scientific, Literary, Normal, and Biblical. Two years were offered in the Grammar Department for those who had been prevented from finishing the common school branches until it was too late to go to the public school. Two years of Academy work were offered. The work as then outlined included only the freshmen collegiate year. The other three were to be given an additional one each year, in proper turn, until the four-year curriculum should be complete. Thus the school would offer, in all, eight years of continuous work from the beginning contact to the obtaining of a degree.

September 11, 1899, was a busy day at Nebraska Central College. The school was embarking upon a new career as an institution of learning. "Again the building resounded with the footsteps and eager voices of students." Many young people from Central City and the surrounding community enrolled at the opening, and young Friends from many parts of the state were there to realize their long cherished dream of attending a Friends college.

#### STUDENTS WHO ENTERED NEBRASKA CENTRAL COLLEGE IN THE OPENING FALL TERM, SEPTEMBER 11 TO DECEMBER 22, 1899

George A. Agnew

Will Barritt

Marguerite Boelts (Mrs. Giles)

Katherine Caldwell

Mary Caldwell (Mrs. Ed. Smith)

James Carns



Olen Cowgill  
 Lena Cowgill (Mrs. Lena Braucher)  
 Laura Culbertson  
 Ed. N. Evans  
 Alonzo Ginn  
 Ernest Hanna  
 John E. Henry  
 Elma E. Hockett (Mrs. F. H. Green)  
 Elton B. Hoskins  
 Grace Hoskins (Mrs. Grace Halling)  
 Clara Hoskins (Mrs. Clara Brannan)  
 Alice Jones (Mrs. Everett Coffin)  
 Angie Jones (Mrs. F. A. Hawthorne)  
 LeRoy Jones  
 Clarice Joyce (Mrs Elton B. Hoskins)  
 Mabel Joyce (Mrs. James Stephen, Jr.)  
 Bert Kennedy  
 Mabel Knight (Mrs. C. S. Peoples)  
 Ray Kombrink  
 Fred C. Lebert  
 George E. Locke  
 Thomas M. Lucas  
 Mildred May (Mrs. Earl Stacy)  
 Everett Myers  
 Ida Myers (Mrs. Joseph Davison)  
 Frank R. Nash  
 William Ostrander  
 Bessie Shelton (Mrs. Roy Olson)  
 Jennie E. Joyce

Clara Shelton  
 Max Shelton  
 Lou F. Schultz (Mrs. Clyde E. Roberts)  
 Carrie Stephen (Mrs. Ed. N. Evans)  
 Lucy Stephen (Mrs. Everett Myers)  
 Lloyd T. Willeman  
 Walter H. Wilson  
 Lloyd E. Wilson  
 Ethel Hogue  
 Charles Abel  
 Bessie Abel (Mrs. Carl Adams)  
 Lillie Phelps  
 SarahKnight (Mrs. Marvin Chamberlain)  
 Rollin Eaton  
 MarthaM. Roberts (Mrs. Martha Eklund)  
 Ethel E. Joyce  
 Cecil Joyce  
 Earl C. Webster  
 Elsie Hoskins  
 John Fuehrer  
 Mattie E. Chapman  
 Ed Van Housen  
 Frank Caldwell  
 Guy Cutting  
 Carson Miller  
 Jennie E. Joyce  
 Rachel E. Joyce  
 Edna Townsend



New Students - Winter Term 1899-1900

Lee Baker	Lula Mack (Mrs. Archie Nash)
Arthur Benjamin	Charles Mesner
Lois Butt	John Pease
Guy Clark	
Ira Mack	
Hiram Cudney	Ralph Severance
Hal Davis	Claude Smith
Alfred Emry	Edgar Taber
Hattie Emry	Orena Tuttle
Ella Emry (Mrs. W. C. Truesdell)	Lillie Wallis
Henry Frenzen	Vivienne Whitaker
James Giauque	Gideon Johnson
Grace Hart	Charles Willoughby
Clyde Hart	Mary SorRells
Earl Hill	Gertie Quisenberry (Mrs. Olen Cowgill)
Lovie Jones	Pearl Wadsworth
Eva Jones	DeLoss Butt
Pearl Kingston	
Elmer Larcom	
Nina Laub	
Fred Laub	
Leslie Lock	
Gilbert Mesner	
Albert Miles	
Charles Moore	
Will Moore	
Harvey Moore	
Arch Nash	
Clarence Richardson	



New Students, Spring Term 1899-1908

Elizabeth McClure (Mrs. Elizabeth Van Slyke)

Paul Quisenberry



## PIONEERING AT COLLEGE

By the three different approaches through the campus – from the south, from the southeast corner along the diagonal driveway, and from the east – the students came that September day. The place was not hard to find; the building showed for miles throughout the level valley and there were no trees on the campus to conceal the way. Two flights of wooden steps at that time led to the two front entrances on the south. These two small entrances or vestibules open into the large hallway that extended from the south to the north end of the building. The first door to the right opens into the president's office, and opposite it on the left is the door to what was then the office of the preceptress. To the north of these on either side of the hallway are the doors into two large recitation rooms. At the north and on either side is a smaller room that was then occupied by prospective students. At the south end of the hallway between the two entrances a large stairway leads to the third floor and to the door of a chapel, a room 35 by 44 feet, which occupies all the west side of that floor except a small room under the gallery at the southeast corner. The chapel, lighted by eight large windows, was furnished with desk seats, two desks placed together thus making rows of double seats. A pulpit was in the alcove at the side of the north end and behind the pulpit was a row of chairs for the faculty. From this vantage point the entire room, including the gallery back of the south side could be seen. Newly papered and painted, the chapel was attractive even though it was without further furnishing.

A narrow hallway along its east side separated the chapel from the commercial department and the art studio. Small rooms at the north and south of these two and used for dormitory purposes completed the number on the third floor.

A glimpse at the basement or first floors completes the tour of inspection. Here, too, a long hallway separates the east and west sides. The two doors at the foot of the stairs at the south open into the two west rooms that were occupied by Herbert and Lille Mott and their two children, Helen and Wilfred. North of these is the furnace room that in the absence of a furnace was used as a store room for coal. The room on the northeast corner was temporary home of Joseph and Anna Joyce while they supervised the building of their spacious new home just east of the campus. East of the hallway, the dining room and kitchen were being run by Wm. and



Anna Roberts who with their son and daughter, Levinus and Josephine, used that half of the basement for their living quarters. Altogether the place presented an animated appearance to the prospective student as he surveyed his surroundings.

If the newcomer arrived after the day was somewhat advanced he might have seen the new six-hundred pound bell being hoisted to strong scaffolding built out horizontally to the south from the bell room of the tower. Lifted to this elevated position with the use of rope and pulley, by men of the faculty and boys of the student body, it was then slid along this improvised track to its place in the belfry where for forty years it has done duty calling students to classes, to chapel, to study. It has also served valiantly by pealing forth to the community the glad news of a scholastic victory in athletics or forensics.

Enrollment that first day was an important but simple process. First, the preceptress, Miss Arabelle Perryman, met the student and supervised the filling out of the enrollment card; next President Haworth directed in the classification. No entrance examination was required. Students could take any course or make their own choice of work. A diploma from a high school in the state would permit the holder to enroll for college work, of which only the freshman course was given that year. Special help was offered to those who for any reason had not mastered the common branches and wished to do so. Two grades of grammar school work were offered to such students, and more than half of the enrollment the first year was in one of these two grades. Special help was offered also to anyone who had begun a year of high school work and for reasons beyond his control had been unable to complete it. Every effort was made to adapt the work to the need of the individual student. Because the resources of the school were limited, most of the courses offered were rudimentary, but those were the courses needed by the majority of the Friends young people of Nebraska at that time.

The first student to register in the new Quaker college was Alice Jones of Allen, Nebraska. Her brother LeRoy was first in line for registration but chivalrously gave the place of honor to his sister.



Forty students registered the first day. Almost half of these were Friends from various parts of Nebraska and from neighboring states. Most of the remainder were from Central City and vicinity, for the local community supported the new school very loyally. The range in age was twenty years, the youngest student being ten years old, the oldest thirty. Two students, Mildred May of North Loup and Fred Lebert of Archer, accepted the special offer and paid \$100.00 each for tuition, board, and room rent for the year. Thomas Lucas was the only college student that term, though Earl Hill, his classmate through the college course, entered the first of the winter term. Many of those enrolled were teachers who wished to get a higher grade certificate; many were reviewing the common branches preparatory to teaching. Others had come to gain the culture that such advantages offered. Probably others had come to gain the culture that such advantages offered. Probably others had come principally to help the new venture along. It was a varied group, and the development of its potentialities was no small challenge to those having the work in charge.

Herbert J. Mott presided at the first chapel and used the opportunity to introduce the individuals of the faculty. Each in turn responded in such a manner as to put the students in a genial mood.

Each member of the faculty seemed imbued with the pioneering spirit and gave unreservedly of thought, energy, and more courage to the new work. A certain enthusiasm permeated the entire staff of officers and teachers to bear them along like a tidal wave the first two years. The newness of the venture and the desire of all that it should succeed contributed each to this enthusiasm. They were conscious that the beginning was a very critical time in the life of the school. Every department had to be organized, and every step was a precedent to be followed in succeeding years. Difficult problems of conflicting interests demanded immediate attention and quick decision. Undoubtedly mistakes were made, but sincere efforts were put forth to start the new college upon the path that would lead ultimately to the highest success.

Although all the faculty members were experienced teachers, they all were young people and, with the exception of Mrs. Nettleson, who was a widow, all were unmarried. President D. Riley Haworth, when applying for the position had sent a picture of himself taken while he was teaching in Kansas, and in collusion with a fellow teacher had let his beard grow in true populist



style. He hoped by this ruse to escape the "Too young" verdict that might otherwise be forthcoming from the Board of Trustees. When he arrived at Central City and was met at the train, Friend Mott upon seeing the boyish face could not conceal his surprise but asked: "Where are thy whiskers?" After serious consideration the Board decided that youth was a fault which the new president could outgrow if given time and that he should be retained despite that handicap.

Compensation for teachers was meager. The executive board of the Association had received by January 9, 1900, as commission for the sale of lots \$1803.41; and from the subscription made at the time of dedication, \$522.25; for rent and for sale of various items, \$110.66, making total receipts \$2436.32. But their expenditures had been \$354.80 on the college campus, \$793.31 for repairs and improvements, and \$828.65 for furnishings, making a total expenditure of \$1156.86. The balance remaining was needed in many places. Without endowment or any other source of income than tuition, the institution must pay all running expenses, including teachers' salaries from the tuition fund. Tuition for the forty weeks was twenty-nine dollars. After the cost of coal and other necessities had been deducted from the amount received, the remainder then divided among four teachers was little more than a mere pittance. Expenses, however, were small. Lodging was supplied by the college and board was \$1.75 per week.

The departmental work in music, art, elocution, and physical culture and business began at the first of the year. These departments were independent of the regular college work and were in charge of the various directors who enrolled their own students and received then a stipulated amount of the tuition paid to them, which was their sole compensation unless provision had been made otherwise.

Prof. E.A. Spear began his work as instructor in vocal music by giving the students a drill in voice culture at chapel the second week of school. He volunteered to conduct this class every Tuesday for the benefit of the students. In November he organized a class in vocal music to study the rudiments and to learn to sing by note. Sixteen members enrolled at the beginning. He also organized classes in different parts of the county. One account of a concert given by Prof.



Spear and his class at Archer told of solos, duets, trios, quartettes and chorus; songs well rendered and well received. Prof. Spear was appraised as a faithful teacher and a good trainer.

Miss Perryman was that year teacher of piano music. Although one of the regular teachers, she was able to give lessons in piano to ten pupils. The next year, however, Miss Cora Crum devoted her entire time to instruction in piano and built up a class of seventy-four pupils in Central City and the surrounding community.

The work in the business department under the direction of Prof. R. D. Pickett was carried on in Room 4. The first year eight students were enrolled and the outlook seemed to warrant a continuance for the second year. After that, however, the commercial work as a separate department was discontinued until the year of 1904-5.

The art studio of Miss Hathaway was in Room 5 on the third floor. The first year her work was a little slow in becoming organized, but the second year it was more successful. A class of twenty-eight pupils took instruction in water color, pastel and oil. An art exhibit was given during the latter part of the winter term at the Porter Sisters' millinery store where Miss Hathaway's work and that of her pupils was on exhibit.

A strong course in elocution was given under the very efficient instruction of Mrs. Daisy D. Nettleton. The courses offered and the work done in this department would rank favorably with those in the corresponding department of other colleges in the state. Frequent programs were given, usually to crowded houses. Contests in the giving of readings were held and this form of friendly rivalry was the medium through which much excellent talent was revealed and developed.

Mrs. Nettleton was an enthusiastic advocate of physical education and felt that it was not receiving proper attention in smaller schools. She gave talks in which she emphasized its importance and did much to secure a place of recognition for it . . .

Of the multitudinous duties of President Haworth, that of canvassing for students claimed a major part of his time during the first of the year. William C. Shelton, who lived just east of the College Section, bought and gave to him a horse and buggy with which to do the canvassing. In a letter to a friend, President Haworth wrote of this experience: "Through heat and cold, sunshine and rain, I drove hundreds and hundreds of miles across the prairies of mid-Nebraska in



search of students. I remember one late fall day, probably in November, I had driven in the open buggy down southeast of Central City to see a family about sending a child to school. In the afternoon, as I was returning, a norther came sweeping across the plain, the thermometer dropped about forty degrees, the sleet blew into my face, and by the time I reached the college I had developed a very bad case of neuritis in my face." He went on to tell how Mrs. Mott with her characteristic motherliness propped him up in a big rocking chair in the kitchen, made a roaring fire in the stove, got two or three large cloths, and spent about two hours taking the neuritis out of his face. But he had learned his lesson and after that went prepared for any and all kinds of weather changes.

One unusual feature of life at Nebraska Central was that school was held on Saturday instead of Monday. The Administration of the College felt that the free Monday would permit the student to be of more assistance at home than a free Saturday. If the student were staying at the college, better opportunity was afforded for doing the laundry work on Monday than on Saturday. Then, too, the temptation to spend Sunday in study was not so strong as when classes met on Monday. This custom was continued until 1924 when, because it was easier for students who needed work to find employment on Saturday than on Monday, especially in the business houses of Central City, the custom was altered to the present one of school on Monday and vacation on Saturday.

Alert to help the student in every possible way, the College Board established a bus line between the college and town. Joseph Joyce was a driver and made the trip into Central City and back twice daily with a fare of seven cents for a round trip. The Executive Board also inaugurated a small farm enterprise under the management of Raleigh Townsend. For students who wished an opportunity to help pay expenses, work was supplied on the college farm at ten cents an hour. Because the college farm was not equipped with irrigation facilities and because the demand for work was not sufficient to keep the farm in condition, the project was abandoned after the first year. Another attempt on the part of the Board to serve the students was the arranging for a bureau of information for the purpose of securing positions for teachers. President Haworth was appointed manager of the committee to establish such a Bureau.



One of the greatest needs of the new institution was an adequate library. With resources so limited the managements could buy few books the first year. About two dozen volumes had been left by the Methodist authorities, but most of these were out of date and useless. Harlow Lindley of Earlham College had sent about 15 volumes and other individuals had donated a half-dozen more. To this number the management of the school had added twenty-nine volumes of the Encyclopedia Britannica and one unabridged dictionary. This small collection was placed in the chapel which was also the study hall, in order that the books might be easily accessible to all students. Efforts were made in various ways to raise funds with which to supplement this short supply. An appeal was made to the Sunday Schools of the Association that they donate one Sunday's collection each month for the use of the College Library. A small sum was received from this source. On the evening of June 18, 1901, the students gave an ice cream supper and donated the proceeds of about \$16.00 to the library fund. During the second year, the Board spent \$148.90 as a first step toward building a library. The books purchased were carefully selected and included only those of standard merit. This excellent nucleus was received with rejoicing and the new library was established in Room 13. A museum was also begun during the second year of school. An interesting collection of rock formations and of mounted specimens of the animal world was placed in a large case that had been provided. Outstanding among the latter was a mounted pelican contributed by A. E. and Anna Hadley. The local paper, in speaking of the project said: "Under the able direction of Prof. Reynolds, the museum is destined to become one of the real sources of instruction to students and a thing of interest to visitors."

The usual school activities of such an institution gradually found their place on the campus. On October 19, 1899, some of the students and faculty members met and organized an athletic association with the following officers: President, R. D. Pickett; Vice President, Thomas Lucas; Secretary, George Agnew; Treasurer, Alvin J. Macy.

A football team was organized and two games were played that season, both of them with the Grand Island Baptist College. The first game was November 20 at Grand Island, whither Central's team had gone in a hay rack and where they suffered a 47-0 defeat from the Baptists.



They returned home the next morning after spending the night in one large room of a lodging house at Grand Island.

On Thanksgiving day, November 30, the Grand Island team met Central on the N.C.C. grid iron in a closely contested game that ended with a score of 12-0 in favor of Grand Island. The Grand Island team, it was reported, averaged about twenty pounds heavier to the man than Central's team. The line-up for Central was as follows: Earl Webster, Captain and full back; John Fuehrer, right half back; Harry Atwood, left half back; Charles Stitzer, quarterback; Ed Evans, right end; Olen Cowgill, left end; Ernest Hanna, right tackle; Tom Lucas, left tackle; George Agnew, right guard; Lloyd Willeman, left guard; LeRoy Jones, center. Although thirty-minute halves were played, neither team introduced substitute players.

Quite a strong sentiment against football was developed in the community and among the patrons of the school. So much was this feeling crystalized that those in authority after careful, conscientious deliberation, decided that there would be no more match football games. This decision was accepted and football was banned as a school sport for the next four years. Perhaps the attitude of those who made this ruling is best shown by quoting from President Haworth's page of The Nebraska Friend of December 1899:

"There is just as much reason for a system's development of the body as of the mind, and any college, in our opinion, is truant to her trust until (if possible) a good gymnasium is built and equipped and a course in physical culture is laid out and a certain amount of work required."

"We have no gymnasium and no gymnastic apparatus. If any man will supply this deficiency, our students will rise up and call him blessed. The patrons who are glad because we put a stop to football ought to contribute liberally toward making it possible for our boys and girls to forget football and enter enthusiastically into other sports so that we all may move along in harmony."

Other sports were taken up. Croquet grounds were laid out. Plans were made for a tennis court and a baseball field. At the January 1900 meeting of the Board of Trustees, a small appropriation was made for gymnasium supplies. Baseball became the favorite sport for fall and spring. Ice-skating and shinny were pastimes during the winter season.



In March 1901, new enthusiasm was awakened in athletics. The Association was reorganized with Thomas Lucas President, and Ed Butts manager of athletics. A basket social held in the chapel March 21 as an athletic benefit netted the Association \$22.55. Eight dollars of this sum was voted to the girls for basketball equipment. That same year the Board of Trustees furnished a windmill to supply water for a skating pond as well as for irrigation purposes. This pond was a few yards northeast of the College building. Field meets were arranged for spring athletics and interclass contests were held.

Both the boys and the girls organized basketball teams, played games with the local high school and with other high school teams, but undertook no intercollegiate games. The college was, however, athletic conscious and alert to all opportunities that were available. It remained to other student generations to bring the wreaths of victory from intercollegiate contests to Nebraska Central. During the first five years of school no official coach was secured for any kind of athletics.

A group of students met in the chapel one evening in January 1900, to organize a literary society. Who were the first officers of Ionian and how many members it had we are not told, but it functioned actively that first winter and spring. Debating was a popular feature of the programs: Miles Standish appeared in his classic, yet-scarcely-voluntary renunciation of the charming Priscilla. For the final program at the end of the year, a mock trial was arranged in which Walter Wilson was to be tried as the offender. Attorneys for the prosecution and the defense had made out their cases; with great difficulty an unprejudiced jury was impaneled; then the defendant, confronted with the charge, pleaded guilty. To furnish a program for the evening, President Haworth gave a short lecture on "Debating." The society was active the next year and gave some excellent programs. In the spring the girls challenged the boys to a contest in the following numbers: Music, select reading, essay declamation and debate. The challenge was accepted and the contest included the giving of three programs. Each program showed careful preparation on the part of the participants. Victory was awarded to the girls by a score of seven to six. Professor Reynolds served as judge. An admission fee of ten cents was charged to all who were not members of the society, the proceeds to go to the piano fund. One of the projects



of the society that year was the subscribing for a daily paper The Chicago Record for the college reading table in the chapel.

On March 13, 1901, Virgil Hinshaw, secretary of the National Intercollegiate Prohibition Association visited the college and organized a Prohibition club of eleven members. The primary purpose of this club was to sponsor for the college each year an oratorical contest in which each contestant delivered an original oration on some phase of the liquor problem. The winner was to represent Nebraska Central in the state oratorical contest. The winner of the state contest was, in turn, to represent Nebraska in the interstate meet, whose winner represented our section in the national contest. Thus, the college had a part in a nationwide crusade against the liquor traffic. The Prohibition Club remained an important activity at Nebraska Central until 1913, when it sent its last representative to the state contest.

Nebraska Central as a Quaker institution was brought into existence on a wave of religious zeal and enthusiasm. The zeal was not that of a fanatic, but rather the zeal of faith in the realization of the fulfillment of a dream that has long been prayed for and striven for. It is not surprising, therefore, that the religious activity of the school was emphasized. A college prayer meeting was held each Wednesday afternoon. The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor held a meeting each Sunday afternoon at three o'clock in the college chapel. A large number of students joined this organization, and attended the meetings regularly.

The week of prayer, observed by Friends in conjunction with other sources the first of January, 1900, was followed by a series of meetings at the college and the Friends church under the direction of Mary and Vantilla Cox, evangelists from Iowa. About forty students confessed conversion, and a deeply religious atmosphere permeated the whole school. These meetings continued three weeks, and in February another week of special meetings was conducted by Jesse Lloyd. The Nebraska Friend for March 1900, in discussing the importance of religious influence on youth said: "Our colleges ought to be the centers of the religious awakening of the twentieth century. \*\*\*\* It is the hope and intention of the founders of Nebraska Central College to make Christianity its leading characteristic. \*\*\*\*"

The students were in very close sympathy with the task of the church, and most of them were regular attenders of the church services. For boys and girls to walk from the college to



church and back twice each Sunday was very common. Some of the more experienced ones went to the outlying stations to assist in the Sunday School or other services. An excellent spirit of cooperation existed between the college and the church.

One of the very features of the college program for the year 1900-1901 was the union lecture course gotten up by President Haworth of the college and by Superintendent Wade of the Central City schools. The course made up of five events, including three lectures, one each by Dr. James Headley, Wm. Hawley Smith and Col. Copeland, and by two musical numbers: one by the Quaker Quartette and one by the Boston Stars. Residents of the College Section as well as students enjoyed these programs. The lecture course was the annual feature of the cultural life of the college for many years. A ride in the college bus from the college to the Opera House in town through a sub-zero storm furnished sufficient adventure to give the whole evening a tone of romance. Add to this an intellectually stimulating lecture spiced with rollicking humor in a program of beautiful, uplifting music and the evening was felt to be an entire success.

The social life of the school was made up largely of impromptu events, and the freedom of the pioneer spirit usually prevailed. A students' reception on the first Friday night of the term seems to have been the opening social function of the school year as far back as 1900. On Dec. 4, 1900, after a program given by the music and elocution departments, the faculty gave a reception in the art and business rooms. It was reported as a pleasant affair with about 150 present. Birthday parties and masquerade parties are mentioned in the local news notes. A hay rack ride to the farm home of a student and an evening of lively games was a popular social event. A Christian Endeavor social was held frequently at the college or at some home.

On Thanksgiving day, 1899, a community dinner was held by the Friends at the college building. A large number attended and a most excellent dinner was served in the dining hall. This neighborhood dinner proved to be a precedent that was followed for many years. In the afternoon a praise service was held in the chapel by those who did not care to watch the football game.

One individual deserves to be singled out as a significant figure in the social life of the first years. William C. Shelton lived just east of the college section and frequently opened his home for the entertainment of both faculty and students. At the close of the first year he



arranged for a picnic for the entire school at Fullerton – an event that in its turn became a precedent for many years to follow.

The story of pioneering at Nebraska Central College would be incomplete without mention of the Friends community that had made the college possible. More than 700 lots of College Section land had been sold by the close of 1899. Fifteen residences had been built or were in the course of erection, with the prospect of more that spring. Families had invested their savings in a home near the college and were devoting themselves unreservedly to the welfare of the new enterprise. Elwood Knight and C. C. Schultz were among the first to build homes on the College Section. Both of these men were members of the board of trustees, the former being the president of the Nebraska Church and Educational Association of Friends from 1896 to 1903. Elwood and Hannah Knight's was the first Friends' home to be built on the College Section, and a beautiful home it was. The cornfield had been replaced by a two-story house surrounded by a smooth lawn set with beautiful flowers, shrubs, and trees. The Knights made a noteworthy contribution to the new undertaking – one not easily overestimated. However, they left in 1903, again to take up pastoral work in which they have continued the past thirty-five years. The Schultz family also built a home near the college where they resided for three years and were foremost helpers in the new cause. Other Friends who came that first year and who stayed to become foundation pillars on which the stability of the institution depended during the early years were Joseph and Anna Joyce and family, the Raleigh Townsend family, the A. F. Hadley family, the David Emry family, and the Boone Johns family. Another family who deserves to be ranked along with these first comers was that of Wilfred and Emma Gibson. They actually established their home on the College Section a little later, but Prof. Gibson came from Appleton, Wisconsin to attend the first Association when they bought lots and arranged for the erection of a house preparatory to their moving here as soon as arrangements could be made for their leaving Appleton. Their devotion to both college and church for the remainder of their lives could scarcely be surpassed. Other families also deserve mention for their contribution. Wm. and Anna Roberts, Frank and Ella SorRells, Fred and Elma Knott all were active workers in the church and supporters of the college. The buying of the lots had made the securing of the college possible, but those faithful ones who stayed on during the last years, when the sky was



not "mild as the eyes of a Saxon baby," when the all-consuming drought burned the garden and the corn until they were brown and crisp were the ones who enabled the college to keep going. Yet not these alone did it. D. R. Haworth once wrote: "The Friends through Nebraska and up in South Dakota evinced a great interest in the young and struggling college and gave it loyal support with both their means and their sons and daughters and for it they sacrificed even the necessities of life."

The loyalty of Central City and the surrounding community was an important factor in the progress of the school. During the first years more than one hundred persons visited college, attending one or more classes and otherwise expressing their interest in the success of the school. Mrs. Lillian Gibbs, of Central City, presented the college with an elegant picture of Frances F. Willard on the occasion of that great woman's birthday. When the need for insuring the college building found the board without resources, James Stephen solicited funds from the people of the College Section and from the business men in town, and received \$140.00 with which the building was insured for \$5000.00 for five years. William C. Shelton and Benjamin S. Abel were tireless in their efforts to carry forward the work of the school in every way possible. The latter served as secretary of the Church and Education Association from the beginning until June 1902.

The students found many ways in which they could show their devotion to the well-being of the school; whether the need was a daily newspaper or fund for athletics or the library, they were ready to do their part. In the spring of 1901, President Haworth and Frank Nash went to the Willeman house and dug up four hundred ash trees. These with four hundred more trees were set out in a grove on the north and west of the college. A row of the trees was set on either side of the diagonal road, also along the east and south sides of the campus. Almost all of them grew. They were kept watered from the new windmill that was put up that spring. Perhaps this arbor day contribution has increased magnitude and significance through the years as much as any gift that the students have ever made to the college.



## THE EMERGENCE OF A COLLEGE CONSCIOUSNESS

Eli H. Parisho was elected president in 1904, for a period of three years, during which time he was to hire his own teachers, subject to the approval of the Board of Managers, receive tuition, room rents, and the resources of the campus. Out of this amount he was to pay his teachers, provide the fuel, and meet the other running expenses of the school. The Board of Managers was to furnish new equipment as it was required and as funds would permit and to make permanent improvements whenever possible.

With President Parisho's coming, a new epoch began at N.C.C. Except the first two years under D. Riley Haworth, the school had a new president every year since it started. A three-year administration permitted the realizing more fully of the vision of the one in charge since it gave time to carry out to some extent a definite policy toward that end. Then, too, the Board of Managers, free from the burden of providing the running expenses, turned its thought and energy toward supplying some much needed improvements. A series of wet seasons with the consequent bountiful crops contributed toward a prosperity that to some extent made this course possible. Perhaps more than anything else, the new epoch was the result of the personality and character of the man who had assumed the leadership of the school.

When he took up his work at the college, he was forty-five years old; more than six feet tall and weighed more than three hundred pounds. With a mind and heart that matched his massive physique, he possessed a personality that was magnificent. Born in Hardin County, Iowa, he had received his early education in the country school there and in Clay County where he had moved with his parents when he was ten years old. At the age of eighteen, he had begun teaching in the district schools of Clay County and had taught there for three years. He had attended Penn College at Oskaloosa, Iowa, but on account of illness in his father's family, had not been able to complete his course at that time. However, with an unconquerable desire for a higher education, he had persevered in his studies and through summer sessions and correspondence courses had almost reached graduation. It was in 1907 that he finally finished his requirements and Penn College conferred upon him the degree of Bachelor of Arts.



Beginning in 1891, he served for a number of years as a minister and as a pastor of Friends meetings in Iowa. Later, while serving as pastor of the meeting at Chapel, Missouri, he had led in establishing a Friends Academy and as a teacher had done a notable work among the young people. In 1901 he had accepted the call to become principal of Whittier Academy at Salem, Iowa. There he had reopened a school that had been closed for some time and had carried it on successfully for three years, drawing together a large number of young people under the influence of his teaching. It was from Whittier Academy that he had come to Central City to serve as president of Nebraska Central.

His keen understanding of young people and his sympathy with their aspirations, his bold courage, his pronounced idealism, and the tremendous force of his vision and his faith called forth a loyalty and devotion from his students that made him outstanding as a leader. He was not without his weakness. His vision included the vast outline of achievement. The many details necessary to its accomplishment would have been baffling to him if left for him to grapple with alone. His wife, Zora Parisho, supported him faithfully in all his undertakings and supplied the painstaking mastery of details that were as essential to the successful outcome of the effort as was the larger, more prominent framework. It was his vision of the possibility of life and his belief in their power to attain it that inspired his pupils to dare and to undertake. And along with the inspiration went all the encouragement and help that he was capable of giving.

President and Mrs. Parisho and their two daughters, Freedom and Honor, arrived at Central City in May 1904, and moved into the basement of the college after the close of the Association meetings in June. Though appreciating the difficulties of his new work, he was thrilled by its grand possibilities, and soon others, inspired by his hopeful spirit, began looking forward to prosperity for the college under his energetic leadership. At the meeting of the Association in June, President Parisho was appointed the editor of The Nebraska Friend and through its pages and by personal visits to the Friends meetings throughout the state he carried on an active campaign for students.

At the opening chapel on Tuesday, September 13, President Parisho remarked that he expected that the faculty as well as the students would have a good deal of training in making speeches and he would begin with them at once. With Professor Gibson speaking first, each one



in turn expressed something of his or her plans and hopes for the coming year. Then the President spoke on his own behalf of the importance of school as a place for physical, mental, and spiritual development: "What we want to learn is to say and do the right thing in the right place. Our only rules are manhood and womanhood, and the only time you will be corrected is when you fail to come up to that standard."

At the head of the corps of instructors was President Parisho himself who as teacher of philosophy and history was a commanding figure. Wilfred D. Gibson, who had finished the work of R. Elizabeth Jenkins the preceding year, continued as professor of English and Mathematics;

H. Josephine Griffin continued as professor of ancient and modern languages. Reverend W. W. Perry again had charge of the Biblical courses; Miss Bessie Ferguson assisted in this department. Miss Lauriett Dowell was hired as teacher of science and higher mathematics and Mrs. Celia B. Smith as teacher of vocal and instrumental music. James G. Wilder, who had just completed the courses in elocution and physical culture under Mrs. Nettleton, was in charge of that department. In addition to these hired instructors, President Parisho had engaged Herman Perry as a student teacher to have charge of the commercial work, and Gilbert Mesner and Fred Lebert as student teachers to assist with the courses in the preparatory department. For their services they were to receive their own tuition, board, and room rent as they continued their courses in the college department. A number of the boys at Whittier Academy in Iowa followed President Parisho to N.C.C. where he provided opportunity for them to work for tuition, board, and room rent as they continued their education. Among these was Milo H. Crosbie who rang the bell for classes and carried fuel and kept the fires in the class rooms the first year he was here and who with the exception of five years was remained at Nebraska Central continuously since that time, having graduated from the Academy in 1905 and from the college in 1909 and having returned to his Alma Mater as a teacher in 1914 where he is still engaged in that capacity.

Besides the Parishos, seventeen people were domiciled in the college building the year of 1904-1905. Some of these did light housekeeping. Others boarded at the college dining hall. Mrs. Parisho had charge of the kitchen and dining hall and with student help managed the work of that department. In every way students were helped to help themselves in getting an



education. If the record of all that done at the college that year should be published, however, the discovery would be made that not all was for the promotion of knowledge. At least that was the decision of the four boys in the double-decker bed in room 19 when late one night a stream of water came pouring down upon them from the classroom above. A hole had recently been made for the purpose of installing the apparatus of the new gas lighting system, and through this opening the water had come. The President agreed that it was an offense and that the culprits if discovered should be expelled. But they were not discovered – fortunately, perhaps, since it might have kept out of the Friends Church two who for many years have been members in good standing, one of them for a long time a trusted official.

The annual reception for faculty and students was planned this year by Mrs. Anna Hadley, a member of the Board, and by the wives of other Board members. It was held at the college chapel on the evening of October 5 with about two hundred people attending. A time of social fellowship was enjoyed while the new members of the faculty and student body became better acquainted with each other and with the people of the community. One feature of the short program given was an original poem by Lela Wildman, which expressed beautifully the note of high idealism that President Parisho was constantly sounding.

#### WATCHWORDS

Do you hear a call on the winds that blow,  
Clear and sure, a command to you,  
As the voice John heard in the long ago,  
Which says, "Go forth, prepare and do?"  
That is the prize? "Where is the goal?  
Some may not know till life's late day.  
But the summons comes to the waiting soul;  
The mandate is sure: "Make haste! Obey!"

Has the vision passed before your eyes—  
Gift of love from the great Unseen—  
Gilding with light from the arching skies  
The goal and the path in the space between?  
This to you when the radiance fades,  
When frowning mists hide smiling blue,  
Through morn or noon or twilight shades,  
You once have seen – to this be true.



"Go forth!" There are hidden in heart and brain  
Powers that await the awakening will;  
Its magic touch will unloose the chain  
That thought its mission may fulfill.  
That voice compelling which bade you go,  
That first strange longing within your breast,  
As light blown seed we in springtime sow,  
Holds the gracious promised of all the rest.

"Prepare!" Ah, the years must come and go,  
With their full measure of shower and sun,  
The tree be tried by all winds that blow,  
Ere the ship is built and the voyage begun,  
Think you the path one turn could spare  
By jagged rocks, through pastures green?  
Think you for the goal we could prepare  
Without lights and shades in the space between?

"Do!" There is work in the world's wide field,  
A labor that waits your heart and hand;  
Whatever the calling to you revealed,  
The Voice and the Vision for you were planned.  
Whatever awaits you along the way,  
If skies o'erhead are gray or blue,  
Through joy or pain, through life's late day,  
Be strong; go forth; prepare and do."

The regular school work was taken up with a great deal of enthusiasm and was carried forward successfully. The enrollment, according to the catalog, showed an increase of only six over that of the preceding year, but the personnel differed greatly. The proportion of boys and girls also varied noticeably. The catalog record for 1903-4 shows that 34 boys and 34 girls were in attendance, and that for 1904-5 shows an attendance of 50 boys and 34 girls. The Nebraska Friend for January 1905, names the new students for the winter term – 11 boys and one girl – and adds; "This makes a fine showing for the college, not only because of the number of new students but because most of them belong to the stronger sex." In 1905-6 the student body included 69 boys and 46 girls, and the following year 77 boys and 37 girls.



President Parisho was an ardent believer in the importance of athletics. It is not surprising therefore, that a football squad began training at once. Four games were played, – one with the Grand Island Business College, one with Hastings College, and two with the Aurora Business College. Defeated in the first three games, the squad won a victory over Aurora Business College with its solid stone wall in the return game played on the local field Thanksgiving Day with a score of 13-2. More than 300 people watched the game and the season was considered satisfactory as a beginning. J. Ray Barnes in his history of athletics and forensics at Nebraska Central names the squad as follows: Clifford Grieve, Charles Grieve, Dean Smith, Fred Lebert, James Wilder, Charles Wilder, Nofle Rennaker, Noble Rennaker, Joe Jackson, Esek Perry, and Charles Abel.

In the two basketball games played with the St. Paul Business College and the two with Central City High School, N.C.C. won every game

The first game with the St. Paul Business College was played at the Academy of Music in Central City, Feb. 3, and resulted in a score of 36-15. Members of the Central team were Crites, Rennaker, Myers, Grieve, and Winton. Crites played a brilliant game for the home team and scored 22 points. Following the game, the local team rendered the visitors a reception at the home of Rev. and Mrs. W. W. Perry. The return game played at St. Paul, March 3, with a score of 29-30, was reported by Central's boys as "clean from every point of view. There were no roasting or boisterous actions on the part of St. Paul people or the students of that college." The boys were enthusiastic over their entertainment and eager for another encounter with such opponents. The Nebraska Friend in reporting this game added the comment: "We are convinced that match games between colleges carried on in the right spirit are of immeasurable value."

A baseball team won six of the seven games played. A trial field meet took place between the Spartans and the Athenians on the campus, Tuesday evening, May 2, for the purpose of selecting the men for the district athletic carnival which included Hastings, Grand Island, York, and Nebraska Central College. If this intercollegiate meet was actually held, no record is found of the outcome. The following candidates won first place in the local contest:

100 yard dash – C. Wilder,  
Pole vault – Jackson

Shot put – Rennaker,  
Half-mile run – C. Grieve



120 yard hurdle – Rennaker	Hammer throw – Wilder
220 yard run – Wilder	Broad jump – Jackson
440 yard run – Grieve	High jump – Jackson
Mile run – Mesner	Mile relay – Athenians (Jackson, Roberts, Willeman, Wilder)

Forensics had a big place in President Parisho's program, both debate and oratories were emphasized. At the opening of the school year two new literary societies were organized, – the Delphians for the men of the school and the Hesperians for the girls. The Delphians took up debating at once. They accepted a challenge from Grand Island Baptist College for an intercollegiate debate.

The local disputants held a practice debate at the Friends Church, November 18, then met their opponents in Grand Island about the middle of December with Fred Lebert and Thaddeus Talbot representing Nebraska Central. The lack of a record of the outcome is evidence that it was probably not a victory. The two schools met again in debate on April 10, this time in the college chapel with Charles Mesner and Fred Lebert as the N.C.C. champions. The same evidence as before tends to show that it was not a victory. As pioneers in a new college activity, however, a bit of laurel for them was appropriate.

The local league of the Intercollegiate Prohibition Association met for reorganization on October 5, 1904. The December issue of The Nebraska Friend reported that several good meetings had been held during the term. The meetings were well attended and did good work. On January 25, the league held a debate in the college chapel, discussing the proposition: Resolved that it was and is a mistake to support the Prohibition party.

Five students prepared orations for the local contest which was held February 27. A crowded house listened to the orators. The contestants; Everett Myers, Will Kent, Mary Kellogg, Charles Mesner and Fred Lebert, all gave excellent orations. The judges were unanimous, however, in awarding first place to Mary Kellogg's oration "The Battle Cry." Accompanied by the "Quaker Male Quartette," who were to sing at the program, and a few others, Miss Kellogg went to Lincoln for the state contest, April 13, where she competed for honors with



representatives from York, Doane, and Grand Island Colleges and Cotner, Wesleyan, and the State Universities.

After the contest, news flashed back by wire that Nebraska Central's representative had won first place. A wave of enthusiasm swept over the school and the community, and preparations went forward quickly to provide an appropriate homecoming for the victorious scholar. She was met at the train by an immense crowd, the high school students joining with those from the college in the effort to show her a proper welcome. A platform with a chair on it and decorated with the old gold and maroon was in readiness at the station, and when the train arrived, Miss Kellogg was taken from the car and placed in the chair. The platform was then hoisted to the shoulders of six or eight husky college boys, and the blushing winner was borne in triumph through the main street. When the fountain was reached the procession halted, and President Parisho, on behalf of the college, expressed in an eloquent speech the pride and gratification which the school felt over her success. Supt. Smith of the city schools also made a short speech and reminded Miss Kellogg and the college that Central City claims Nebraska Central as her own and shared with the faculty and students, the pride which came as a result of the honors she had won. Jubilation was unrestrained as college and high school students united in the giving of cheers and yells. After the speeches, the procession continued on up the street and thence to the Jackson home on the college section where another informal reception was held. Truly that was a day of triumph for Nebraska Central College!

During the years that Dean Smith was in college the male quartette was a popular feature of school life, but in 1904-5 it became important as a college activity. Known as the Quaker Male Quartette, it consisted of Mel Scudder, first tenor; Dean Smith, second tenor; Charles Scudder, first bass, and Herbert Winton, second bass. Under the direction of Mrs. Celia B. Smith, Instructor in Music, it attained a proficiency that brought to it recognition from many places and invitations to sing at various programs. In January, with the assistance of J. G. Wilder as reader, the quartette gave programs that received favorable comment. Among these were the programs given at Pierce Chapel, St. Paul, and the Grand Opera House in Central City, where, under the auspices of the Woman's Relief Corps, the quartette sang to a large and appreciative audience. The quartette accepted an invitation to sing at the State Prohibition Oratorical contest



at Lincoln, April 13, where it received enthusiastic encores. About a week later, Herbert Winton went to Kearney to accept a position in the State Industrial School for Boys as overseer of some of the farming operations, thus ending the career of the Quaker Male Quartette.

Mrs. Smith also directed two chorus classes this year, a mixed chorus, and a men's chorus. Both of these participated in the Colonial program given by Mrs. Smith early in the spring.

The Junior academic class gave a Public March 25 that consisted of orations which the individuals themselves had written. The class included Emily Stephen, Bertha Townsend, Clara Wilder, Frank Crites, Mabel Myers, Mary Reeves and Lela Wildman. "Trifles," "The Grandeur of Self-Sacrifice" and "Lesser Lutes" are titles that represent the general trend of the subjects chosen. A single sentence from the last named oration which reporters called the star of the program, is typical of what came from the pen of Lela Wildman whose composition it was: "Let us ever bring to those about us our soul's richest melody, for even as the sunlight of a summer evening reveals the rainbow hidden in the smallest drop of water, so may Divine love shining through our lives, play upon human tear drops and draw from human hearts a music whose tones shall blend as these colors which we see, and shall span the ages, touching the hearts as far separated as the tips of yonder bow."

In recording the highlights of this year, one social event should be mentioned. The usual Thanksgiving dinner at the college swelled to one of unusual proportions in 1904. Many townspeople as well as members of the Quaker community joined in the festive occasion. More than 300 people feasted on roast pig, turkey, chicken, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, and other good things and enjoyed a social time together before going to the gridiron to help the team win over the squad from the Aurora Business College.

Many less outstanding events have significance in that they show trends of thought and action in the routine life of the school. A committee appointed to raise funds for the reading room periodicals arranged a spelling match to begin "at early candle light." Admission charge was ten and twenty cents. The match, we are told, was well attended.



President Parisho gave a "rousing lecture at the Academy of Music the evening before election, which could not fail to set the public to thinking." The city voted to remain dry another year, whether or not influenced by the president's address.

Some of the students held services at the county farm for the benefit of the old people who could not attend elsewhere.

Chapel talks must have impressed the students, for one issue of The Nebraska Friend, under the caption of "Brain Leaks from Chapel Talks and Sermons" lists a number of gleanings among which are the following: "Read the prose of war to the youth and he will not seek its poetry." "If God puts mountains before us, it is that we may get a closer view of Heaven from their summits." "God will hold everyone responsible for what he can know."

Commencement time brought graduation for five Academy students – Milo Crosbie, Alta Jewell, Mary McCracken, Frank Mesner, and Mabel Roberts, and two commercial students, – Charles Abel and Cora Jeffries. Baccalaureate, a class program of a chronicle, will, prophecies, and finally the great event with its orations and the class address by Supt. F.A. Marsh, and the first year of President Parisho's regime was finished. The Nebraska Friend, in a survey of the year, said it had been a year of victories for Nebraska Central College. No college need be ashamed of a place earned by these successes.

"This is much the smallest college in the state, but none can point to more and better scalps than we."

"On the athletic field we have won a good place. \* \* \*"

"On the intellectual field we have been no less successful. \* \* \*"

"And last but not least \* \* \* great spiritual strength has been gained by many students, \* \* \*."

"These victories rest not upon a great money endowment for we have none; but upon a faculty working for little pay and upon loyal, noble boys and girls who are working hand in hand with the faculty for success."

"For these blessings and real successes we thank God and pray that some of His servants to whom He has entrusted means may place us in a position less handicapped for apparatus, and other resources."



The two years that followed were in much the same tenor as the one just reviewed in that there prevailed a general spirit of optimism and progress. Opposing currents appeared but did not stem the tide of the slow but steady progress and expansion.

In the fall of 1905 the enrollment the first day was sixty-five; in a little over a week eighty students had enrolled. Of the faculty, Alice M. Matlock took the place of Lauriett Dowell as head of the department of science and higher mathematics. A graduate of Friends University in June, she had spent the summer doing graduate work in the University of Chicago and came to her task well qualified for it. John H. Walker of the Lincoln School of Commerce had charge of the business department. Other faculty members were the same as the year before with the exception of the absence of Prof. Gibson, who did not teach this year, and of Rev. W. W. Perry and Bessie Ferguson, neither of whom returned to the college. An additional student teacher was Roy Wellington who assisted with the teaching in the Bible department. John Morgan of Chapel, Mo., served as the caretaker of the college and campus and, with his eight-year-old son Leslie, occupied one of the rooms in the college basement. With such a small number on the teaching staff, the load for each teacher was necessarily very heavy.

This year saw the organization of the Christian Associations at the college. A new Y.M.C.A. building had just been erected in Central City. Gilbert Mesner, in his contact with the city secretary became convinced that the time had come for the organization of a college association. Through his initiative, the matter was taken up with the state secretary of student work, and an organization was effected that autumn with John H. Walker as president and Milo H. Crosbie as secretary. Since the opening of the college in 1899, the Young Men's Christian Association had been considered a desirable organization for the campus as soon as the institution should be strong enough to support it. State representatives had visited the campus and delegates had been sent to Association conferences, so it was not a radical innovation, but one that has fitted into the needs of the school and has functioned helpfully for many years.

The Young Women's Christian Association became a campus activity almost as soon as did the Men's organization and has filled a similarly important place in the social and spiritual forces of school life for more than thirty years. At the beginning of the term; in many ways the Association contributed to the social life. Each Association gave an informal reception for new



students. Together they sponsored a joint reception for all students and faculty members. During the term many informal social occasions, – teas, hikes, wiener roasts – furnished pleasant recreation as “Y” activities. Once a year a formal banquet was held when often a speaker from outside the community opened up wider horizons of vision and thought.

The Christian Associations carried on, to a large extent, the religious activities of the school. The Thursday chapel period was turned over to them for their weekly meetings. On the first Thursday of each month they held joint meetings, and held separate meetings on the remaining Thursdays. They organized Bible and Mission Study classes and Student Volunteer Bands. They brought many inspiring Christian speakers to the campus, and formed a basis for a very helpful interscholastic fellowship in the state conventions and conferences. These activities also furnished avenues through which students might meet some of the great spiritual leaders of the time at summer conferences.

The chorus class under Mrs. Smith this year met two hours a week besides having a practice period each Monday evening. In addition to the chorus was the college band which had Mr. Sullivan for director. An orchestra too was organized in time to play at Thanksgiving day observance when again dinner was served, this time to 150 people. Both the band and the orchestra were important activities at the college, especially the band.

The athletic program began in 1905-6 with a football game played with Hastings College on Friday, September 29. Because of the serious illness of Josie Roberts, a student, the game was played in a pasture north of town that the noise might not be disturbing in the sick room. The home boys kept the ball in the visitors’ field practically all the time and the game closed with a score of 12 to zero in favor of N.C.C. The second game was played with the Grand Island Baptist College and resulted in a defeat for the home team of 10 to 0. Frank Crites, quarterback for the home team, because of the death of his brother the preceding day, was not at the game. Consequently, the team was at a disadvantage. In the third game a victory of 5 to 0 was won over the Aurora boys . . . Then at a meeting on November 11, the College Athletic Association reached a decision to remove football from its list of games. Because a number of serious accidents had occurred recently in this state and adjoining states and because the sentiment of many patrons and friends was strong against the game and for a number of other listed reasons, a



resolution to quit football was passed and was published in the local papers and in The Nebraska Friend. Thus was football once more banned from the athletic program, this time by action of the students themselves. Not until six years later was it again included as a part of intercollegiate athletics for N.C.C.

The rest of the year basket ball and track and field contests made up the athletic activity. The N.C.C. basketball team won a victory Thanksgiving Day over the Grand Island Baptist boys with a score of 46 to 5. For that year and the one following came a succession of 11 victories that were interrupted by only two defeats and those from teams not included in the conference. N.C.C. claimed the state championship in 1907. The team was made up, according to Ray Barnes's record, of Frank Crites, Frank Myers, Noble Rennaker, Nofle Rennaker, and Harry Davis. Other records include the names of Clifford Grieve and Percy Davis. Will Perry was the Business Manager. In track and field meets the college also made a good showing with at least two state records and with victories over Grand Island Baptist, York, Doane College, and Wesleyan University.

The Spartan and Athenian Literary Societies gave public programs just before the Christmas vacation. The Spartan program centered around Christmas; the Athenians staged a Quaker program with members wearing Quaker costumes. In the audience as well as among those of the society, the women were on one side of the room, the men on the other. In this new center of Quakerism such a program could be of more than passing interest since few of the members had any personal knowledge of the "peculiar customs" of Friends.

During the winter term of 1905-6 the actual attendance was more than one hundred, -- perhaps the largest attendance the school had yet had under the management of Friends. The entire enrollment reached 114 and even during the spring term an attendance of eighty was maintained.

In 1906-7, besides President Parisho, Miss Griffin, and Prof. Walker, who remained of the faculty of the year before, Clara B. Greene, a graduate of Penn, served as professor of science and higher English; Mrs. E. H. Parisho, as teacher of English and the common branches; Mary Kellogg as professor of Expression and Music. Bertha Townsend was again assistant in the



commercial department; Fred Lebert and Gilbert Mesner again served as student teachers. With the attendance equal to that of the preceding year, the load for the faculty to carry was heavy.

The commercial department, under the supervision of Prof. Walker, had expanded the year before to include twenty-two students. This year it outgrew its quarters until Prof. Walker was almost at a loss as to where he could place all his students. In the winter term he secured an assistant, Miss Virgie Burns, of Lincoln, who helped in teaching stenography. Commencement exercises were held for the first time at midyear, February 12, this time for two students who had finished their business courses, Henry Anderson and William Westphal. A very appropriate program was carried out, but capricious luck took a hand in it and on account of washouts on the Union Pacific Railroad, Mr. Westphal was unable to get to the service. Mr. Anderson was forced to receive his diploma alone.

Progress was evident during President Parisho's first stay of three years at the college, in the improvements made in the plant itself. In the fall of 1904 James Wilder, with the consent of the Board of Managers raised a subscription sufficient to buy for the college the acetylene gas plant that had just been taken out of the Methodist church when city gas had been substituted for it. This lighting system was more satisfactory than the mantle lamps that had been in use. In November 1905, a steam heating plant was installed in the college at a cost of about \$1300. This project was promoted by the Board of Managers, and the sum was raised largely by popular subscription. Phelps Hall, the boys' dormitory, was moved from the east side of the campus to a location near the northeast corner of the main building that it might be attached to the heating and lighting plants. Thus was passed the necessity of experiencing freezing temperatures in hallways, of carrying coal up one or more flights of stairs and building fires in class rooms. Welcome indeed was the greater cleanliness and comfort made possible by this much-needed improvement.

The crowded conditions that existed in 1905-6 made the providing of more room almost imperative. In September 1906, material was on the ground for the building of a new girls' dormitory two hundred feet west of the south half of the college building. The construction went forward until April, when the formal opening and dedication of the two-story brick structure of seventeen rooms occurred. Rev. Charles Sweet of Des Moines, Iowa, came to assist in the



dedication service. After an eloquent address on "The Mission of Life," he made an appeal for funds, receiving in response, subscriptions for \$525. This brought the total amount subscribed up to \$2581.50. The total cost, including installation of a furnace and buying of insurance, amounted to almost five thousand dollars. Thus a debt of approximately twenty-four hundred dollars remained yet to be paid. However, the requirement for more room had been met, and a neat, substantial structure had been added to the college plant.

These three additions – the lighting plant, the steam heating system, and the new dormitory – were the outstanding improvements of this period. Others of less importance were a new roof for the college building put on in 1905, new back steps on the north, cement steps and floor for the north entrance to the basement (provided by James Stephen), and a new reading table for the library.

Many additions were made to the library. T.M. Fisher made valued contributions. By voluntary contributions, money was raised for purchasing new hymn books for chapel. By requesting them of Senator Millard, President Parisho received a large consignment of volumes of public documents, including congressional records that are helpful reference material, especially for debating. Some new chemicals and apparatus were secured for the laboratory also.

When the school was first established in 1899, it officially belonged to "The Nebraska Church and Educational Association of Friends," and was not a corporate entity in itself. Consequently, according to the laws of the state it could not grant degrees. In 1906, this matter was taken up by Board of Managers and later by "The Nebraska Church and Educational Association of Friends" at its meeting in June. The latter elected a Board of Trustees composed of fifteen members. This board, made up of five resident freeholders of Merrick County, five persons representing the Quarterly Meetings of the Association or its successor, and five persons chosen at large, including the following:



J. A. Davis	Orissa K. Stephen	Turner L. Abel
A. C. Jackson	Belle Kellogg	A. E. Hadley
R. R. Townsend	S. S. Dunnagan	H. W. Moore
W. D. Gibson	Cynthia Hiatt	S..L. Hull
J. S. Joyce	Elijah Roberts	Geo. W. Ayres

The Board of Trustees adopted "Articles of Incorporation" and organized July 31, 1906. On August 18, these "Articles of Incorporation" were signed by the trustees and placed on record in the County Clerk's office. At the next commencement day program, degrees were conferred upon all those who had previously graduated as well as upon those who were at that time finishing the course. Degrees conferred were as follows: of the class of '03, upon William Earl Hill, A.B.; upon Thomas Martin Lucas, A. B. of the class of '06, upon Mary Kellogg, A.B.; and of the the class of '07, Fred C. Lebert, Ph. B., and upon Gilbert M. Mesner, Ph.B.

President Parisho in January 1906, offered his services to the Board of Managers to help raise an endowment for N.C.C.; this offer was accepted, and he was authorized to solicit money for that purpose. On June 6, 1907, the total amount of the endowment fund was \$4125. Although the amount was so small as to seem almost negligible, yet it was a nucleus around which larger amounts might be drawn, - it was a beginning!

At the Association meeting in June 1907, President Parisho presented his final report, parts of which we quote: "In this my third annual report, I desire to express my gratitude to God for His blessings upon me during not only during the past year, but the entire time of my management of the college. We have been greatly hampered from lack of funds. Our faculty has been too small for the work demanded, most of the members teaching the entire time.

"Because of this fact, my own supervision and general management could not be what I desired it to be. Nevertheless, the standard of the school has been fairly well maintained. We are able to report fewer failures in grades in this year than in the other two years. \* \* \* "

"Asking God's blessing upon the future management of the school, with this report I retire from its active control."



The Board of Managers reelected him president and professor of Philosophy and Sociology, but he decided to accept a call to serve as pastor of the meeting at Lawrence, Kansas, where he had the opportunity to study toward his master's degree at the State University of Kansas. In 1909 he secured from that institution, the degree of Master of Arts.

Thus, President Parisho's first period of service at Nebraska Central College came to a close. That he left the institution much stronger than he found it cannot be doubted. Slowly was emerging, with difficulty and much evidence of growing pains, a "college-consciousness," -- a recognition that "our college" could take her place among the sister colleges of the state and could keep pace with them in athletics, in forensics, in Christian Association work, and, to a great extent, in scholarship itself. Yet all realized that much still remained to be achieved.



## STEMMING THE TIDE

The first two years the career of the college seemed auspicious. But its way was destined not to be always calm and promising. It is not the purpose of this story to explain in detail, even if it were possible, the troublous times through which the struggling institution passed. But the fact that it did meet such times cannot be ignored. On September 1, 1900, Herbert J. Mott preached his farewell sermon as pastor of the Central City Friends meeting. In the less than two years that he had been at Central City, much had been accomplished. His had been the vision, the faith, the energy, and the perseverance that more than any other human agency had established the church, the school, and the Friends community at Central City. No one else knew so well the situation – the needs and the possibilities – as did he. His leaving seemed like the withdrawal of a parent's hand that has been guarding the toddling child who has just succeeded in walking from a fall.

His successor was Samuel L. Haworth, brother of D. Riley Haworth, who soon proved himself a capable and consecrated pastor. Introduced to the meeting and the student body as "Brother Sam," he soon became a familiar figure on the campus and throughout this community. The meeting prospered under his care, and the gap was filled as well as it could be. In July 1901, D. Riley Haworth resigned the presidency. For two years he had directed the policies of Nebraska Central College. His outstanding abilities and his enthusiastic devotion to the new school had done much to get it well started on a successful career as an institution of higher learning, and his place was one hard to fill.

At the Association meeting in June 1901, the treasurer reported for the first time a deficit. Although this deficit was small, yet it was an indication of a general trend. The expansion of the curriculum with its needs of apparatus, increased library and laboratory facilities demanded more funds. Instead of the \$500.00 that the Executive board had agreed should be subscribed each year for permanent improvements, the amount this year was \$436.00. The hot winds and the dry weather of 1901 resulted in a crop shortage. As a consequence, subscriptions were smaller or entirely omitted and those that had already been made were paid less promptly.

Determination to maintain the school, however, persisted through all discouragements. The executive board engaged David B. Gilbert of Marion, Indiana, as the successor to President



Haworth. Notice of his election reached him August 8; seven days later he was on his way to his new work. With wholehearted devotion he set himself to plan for the coming school year. Central City welcomed him cordially, and a general rallying of the forces of N.C.C. brought a spirit of hopefulness to the board and patrons. Charles C. Haworth, a cousin of D. Riley and Samuel L. Haworth the newly elected professor of science and mathematics, was already on the field. Both were busily engaged until the opening of school soliciting students and making ready for their coming. Miss Roberts, head of the language department, was returning for her third year at the college.

The school year opened September 16 with three teachers in charge of the regular work and thirty-nine students enrolled. By the end of the school year the enrollment was sixty-seven, – smaller by thirty-three than that of the preceding year, including the Music, Art, and Elecution and Physical Culture Departments, the total enrollment was 145, – smaller by thirty-seven than was that of 1900-1901. But it had been an excellent school year. Scholarship had been maintained at a high standard. Because President Gilbert's work proved to be heavy, Mrs. Gilbert, who was taking a visitation from full-time teaching so that she might recuperate her strength, taught two or more of his classes each term without additional compensation. A corresponding spirit of devotion was evident among all the faculty. A fine fellowship prevailed throughout the school.

In the life on the campus, religion had an important place. The Wednesday afternoon prayer meetings were well-attended and were pervaded by a Christian spirit. Classes were organized in bible study. Reverend Samuel L. Haworth taught the boys' class, and Prof. C. C. Haworth taught one of the girls' classes and his wife taught the other. One of the items in the Central City paper says: "The students who board at the club conduct themselves much better while at the table since they have established the rule of bowing their heads in reverence to God before their meals."

The Ionian Literary Society was still active. Debates were popular but the subjects debated were often not profound. One announcement tells that the question for debate at Literary for Friday evening, March 14, was: Resolved, that there is more pleasure in city than in country life. The speakers were Lela Wildman and Arthur Jones on the affirmative, and Mary



SorRells and Elmer Gardner on the negative. All except Mary SorRells were grammar grade students at that time.

The department of Elocution had become an important part of the school life. Recitals and other The Ionian programs made up a large proportion of the extra curricular activity and furnished a medium for contact with the outside life. Before the days of moving pictures and radio, the public eagerly accepted an invitation to such an entertainment. Usually a crowded house greeted the performers even though an admission fee was charged as a benefit for the piano fund or for some other needy cause. The Nebraska Friend for December 1901, describes one of these events. "The pupils of Mrs. Nettleton, who has charge of the Department of Elocution, gave a nice little farce, 'The Mouse Trap', Monday evening, the 16<sup>th</sup>. The night was blustering and cold, but there was a good attendance by those on the college section. The entertainment was opened by a vocal solo by Mary Kellogg; then Bertha Frakers and Elmer Lewis entered and were engaged in a heated discussion when a mouse was supposed to be seen which came near turning the comedy into a tragedy. Some other ladies entered and after remarkable exhibitions of terror succeeded in escaping with their lives. The broken vows were then renewed and everything ended pleasantly.

Mrs. Nettleton's pupils show the effect of good drill".

1. Lou Schultz - "Not One Went Back in the Mayflower."
2. Verdie Willeman - Rowan
3. Katharine Caldwell - Binnenleben
4. Clara Shelton - "The Great Stone Face."
5. Walter Wilson - "Causes of the Downfall of the Roman Empire"
6. Lillie Wallis - The Closed Door
7. Margaret Stephen - The Parting of the Ways
8. Mabel Joyce - An Old Dime
9. Mary Kellogg - "To Do a Great Right Do a Little Wrong."
10. Hal Davis - Development in Government
11. Hattie Emry - "The Builder's Trowel and the Settler's Ax Are Seldom Wielded  
By the Selfsame Hand."



12. Bertha Fraker – "Luck Obeys the Downright Striker."

13. Mamie Ferris – The Twentieth-Century

14. Edna Townsend - "Nauhaught, Be a Man."

Music recitals were also frequent, or more common was the combination in one recital of numbers from the departments of Music and Elocution. During the year, the instrumental music department had an enrollment of 67 students and vocal music an enrollment of 33 pupils. The latter part of the year, the instrumental work was under the direction of Miss Mayme Will.

Miss Hathaway's art department had fourteen pupils; some of her students did work that reflected much credit upon their teacher.

The regular business department was not kept up separately from the general work, but President Gilbert taught commercial courses that were requested.

During the winter President Gilbert became ill and was confined to his room for some time. The load of an executive leader and a teacher combined was a heavy one, and this must have been especially true for one so new to the work, community, and the state.

Daily delivery of mail to the college had been made since its opening in 1899, but this service had been rendered by the college authorities. In March 1902, the college welcomed the establishment of the rural route which brought the mail each morning to the northeast corner of the campus. The memory of the wheel at the corner with its load of mail boxes still remains with many "old timers." The college has up to this time had three carriers: James Dunagan, Bert Day, and Harold Galusha.

An outstanding feature of the day's routine that year was the chapel service which was held from 9:15 to 9:30 each day. Its program was usually made up of a hymn led by President Gilbert, followed by a Scripture reading, and a short talk, and prayer by some member of the faculty or by the pastor, Samuel Haworth. Occasionally, an outside speaker was present. The talks made at these devotional periods often were pithy and entertaining. In the college department column of The Nebraska Friend for December 1901, is given a symposium of voluntary statements made by members of the school concerning the chapel exercises. One of these will suffice to give the trend of them all: "The chapel exercise, especially during the past month, has been a source of instruction, encouragement, pleasure, and inspiration to me."



Among the excellent talks given at chapel, Mrs. Gilbert's were outstanding. Students could not soon forget her beautiful exposition of Hawthorne's "The Great Stone Face," which she closed by quoting from the writings of the Apostle Paul: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are of a good report: if there is any virtue, and if there is any praise, think on these things." As she talked, Mrs. Gilbert's face wore an expression that was almost radiant, yet subdued by a classic restraint that showed stability and power.

A regular feature of the chapel service was the playing at its close of a piece of spirited march music on the piano, and the students marched from the room in the order of their classification. Bessie Rooker, from Grant, Nebraska, was the pianist. She was taking music exclusively and had brought her own piano from home that she might carry on her work without interruption.

The daily schedule did not cover as much time as it did later. Classes were forty-five minutes in length. Class work began at 8:30 A.M. and, with five minute intermissions between classes and one hour and a half at noon, lasted until 4:00 P.M.

An event of interest to the student body in March 1902, was the visit of one weekend of President and Mrs. Clemons of the Fremont Normal School to President and Mrs. Gilbert at the college. The two families had been acquainted professionally in Indiana. President Clemons took occasion to visit classes on Saturday and to become somewhat acquainted with the school. Incidentally he remarked: "You people do not realize how fortunate you are. Do you know that Mrs. Gilbert was considered one of the best teachers in Indiana?" It was not surprising when announcement was made a few weeks later that Mrs. Gilbert had been engaged to teach the next year in the Fremont Normal School, and that President Gilbert had been employed, also. Although regretting her departure, many of her students felt that she had left an imprint upon their lives that was lasting. President Gilbert had been a faithful executive. He had sought to increase the enrollment and to create an endowment for the school, but his strength had failed and he was forced to give up the work. He will be remembered as one of the kindest of friends and as one who sought earnestly to do his part.

Charles C. Haworth and Mrs. Haworth must also be listed among those who made a real contribution to the college. Living in the two south rooms of the college basement, they radiated



an atmosphere of happiness and goodwill from their home that seemed to influence the entire school. Between President Gilbert and Professor Haworth, administrative department of the school, developed a strong bond of friendship that was an inspiration to their students. A common sight was that of President Gilbert riding his bicycle down Irving Street with Professor Haworth perched smilingly on the handlebars. The professor's small stature was no indication of the size of his good nature. Charles and Orpha Haworth were student volunteers and left Central City the summer of 1902 to take up their work as missionaries in Cuba, taking with them their infant daughter Esther, whom N.C.C. claimed particularly as its own since she had been born within its walls.

At a board meeting held May 20, 1902, Samuel L. Haworth was elected president of the college for the coming year. Emmet E. Hadley, who was then serving as principal of Stella Academy in Oklahoma was elected vice president. At the annual meeting of the Association that June, Samuel L. Haworth was appointed to serve the Association as superintendent of pastoral and evangelistic work in connection with his work as college president. That summer he and LeRoy Jones visited the meetings over the state soliciting students.

On September 1, the fourth year of college work began with an enrollment of fifty-two -- forty-two girls and ten boys.

Miss Roberts and Mrs. Nettleton were the only faculty members who remained from the original group of 1899, and for that reason as well as for their individual merits were a valuable asset to the institution. Prof. Hadley taught mathematics, and Prof. Noah K. Williams had charge of the science department. Mary Hadley, wife of Prof. Hadley, taught two or more academy classes each term. Miss Mayme Wills remained as teacher of vocal and instrumental music. Pres. Haworth's duties kept him at field work among the Friends meetings over the state and in Central City and the surrounding community. Yet his smiling countenance was often seen in the college halls, and his presence was a wholesome influence, for he was beloved by all.

Prof. Hadley soon proved himself a competent though somewhat a stern schoolmaster. Everyone was there for business, and under the prevailing regime everyone soon realized it. All students received a physical examination, and four days a week had physical culture drill. Two new literary societies were organized in place of the Ionians, and every student enrolled



belonged to one or the other society, according to assignment made by the faculty. Every student was required to be on the program once each month. If he failed to respond at the appointed time, he was given another opportunity; then if he did not perform he was scheduled to give the required number in chapel. Not many chapel performances of this type were given, but the Spartan and Athenian Literary programs were usually of a high order. In fact, the students became enthusiastic over their society work; a spirit of rivalry sprang up which resulted in a contest between the two societies. For weeks, representatives from the two organizations prepared readings, essays, original stories, orations, and

a debate. The written productions were sent to the English departments of Penn College, Friends' University, and York College to be judged. The judges on delivery were all from a distance except President Haworth who served as a substitute for the one to come from Marquette, who on account of the roads was not able to reach the college in time. The decorations of college colors and society colors in the chapel, and the society yells with which the Spartans and Athenians hurled good-natured defiance at each other from opposite sides of the room were evidence that the true N.C.C. spirit was present. The resulting score of twelve points for the Spartans and five points for the Athenians seemed a greater victory for the Spartans than the percentages showed it actually to be. This fact was probably recognized by all, for quoting from The Nebraska Friend, "Spartan yells were soon hushed and all joined in the hearty cheer for our N.C.C. who is justly proud of her bright sons and daughters."

A mission study class was organized as extracurricular activity and was led by Noah K. Williams. Every student was required to take a one-hour course in The Bible. These classes in Scripture all recited at the same hour, - the first period after chapel on Tuesday morning - so each class had a different teacher. One of these classes was taught by Mahlon H. Perry, the new pastor, who with his family had come from Damascus, Ohio, to fill the place vacated by Samuel Haworth upon his assumption of his College and Association duties. Each student reported at roll-call whether or not he had attended church at least once on the preceding Sunday. If not, an acceptable excuse must be presented to the authorities.

Five evenings of the week the study bell rang at 7:30, at which time all students were expected to turn their attention to the studying of lessons. If they did this, they had no cause for



alarm if a knock was heard at the door and a professor entered, for the call was sure to be a friendly, helpful one.

Times were appointed, too, for fun making, and the atmosphere on the campus was generally wholesome. When James Wilder went to Grand Island to represent N.C.C. in the state contest of the Intercollegiate Prohibition Association, almost half of the school accompanied him. A newspaper report of it tells that "our speaker was better supported than even the home orator, and the quartette -- well, they just covered themselves with glory." This quartette, the personnel of which included Dean Smith, Earl Hill, Olin Cowgill, and Chas. Scudder, was invited to remain over the weekend and to sing at the meeting at which Governor Mickey was to speak on Sunday.

From fifty-two at the opening of the school year the enrollment by the end of the fall term had grown to sixty-nine. Several new students enrolled at the beginning of the winter term and a few dropped out so that the number of boys was about equal to the number of girls. Tom Lucas gave as his original verse at roll-call in the first literary meeting of the term:

We're having lots of fun now, And lots of joys;

We traded off a lot of girls. And got some boys!

The total enrollment for the year, excluding the music and expression department was eighty-two and the total enrollment 129. A small increase is shown in the number of regular students, although the drop in the number of music pupils makes the total enrollment smaller than that of the preceding year. Miss Mayme Will, the head of the music department, had remained only the first part of the year, and the total enrollment of music pupils was only 18.

Two deaths within college circles that year profoundly influenced the thought life of the students. The first was the death of Hal Davis, a member of the Academy class of 1902, who had been stricken with typhoid fever the first of January and died January 16. He had been a strong, well-built young man of striking personality and had been popular in school. During his illness the student body had kept in close touch with his condition, for he was at the home of his sister, Mrs. T. M. Fisher, who, with her husband, lived not far from the college. On the afternoon of the funeral, school was dismissed, and the student body attended the funeral en masse. At one o'clock the students, led by the faculty, marched to the house and then in the same order they



followed the hearse to the church, where they formed in double columns at the door, and the body was carried through this aisle by former schoolmates. President Haworth preached to the large audience gathered to do the last sad honors. On February 25, a gloom was cast over the entire school when a message came to the college that Charlie Wilson, a member of the first year Academic class, had died after a short, severe illness. He had suffered an attack of appendicitis, to which he had succumbed. A strong, well-developed young man, nineteen years of age, he had always enjoyed unusually good health which made his death seem all the more incredible. Because of his Christian character and generous friendly nature, he had won a large place in the life of the school, and his loss was keenly felt. That two such promising young men should be claimed by death in so short a time was reason for a wave of seriousness to sweep over the school as students pondered over the mystery of life and death.

A series of meetings was begun at the college just after the opening of the new term. Rev. Mahlon Perry and President Haworth were in charge and their simple presentation of the claims of the Christian life upon young manhood and womanhood met with a ready response. When Hal Davis, during his illness, was told that efforts were being made to bring the boys of the college to Jesus, he sent them this word: "Tell them now is the accepted time." Prof. Hadley used his influence in his reasoning, matter-of-fact way to help students make decisions that would bring them lasting satisfaction. We quote briefly from an editorial in The Nebraska Friend. "Here were students from many parts of the state, trying to prepare themselves for lives of usefulness. Many of them were Christians, but quite a number were not. When the meetings were closed, only four were left out of the fold. \* \* \* At the closing meeting it was an inspiring sight to see all the teachers and the Christian students, at the request of Prof. Hadley, form a circle and join hands and make a solemn covenant that they would be true to God and that as they mingled together in the school from day to day they would strive to be mutually helpful to each other."

In the spring of 1903, a new normal school was to be located in the central part of Nebraska. Central City was regarded as a possibility as a place for its location. A suggestion was made that the college building be offered to the state as an inducement for locating the normal school here. An editorial in The Nebraska Friend for June 1903, mentions this matter.



"We are glad to see that the interest in the college is increasing, and we believe it is much greater than appears on the surface. One thing is certain; Friends have no thought of abandoning the school. Anyone who heard the discussion on the proposition to offer the college property to the state for the new normal, provided it was located at Central City was satisfied on that point. The vote was practically unanimous to maintain the college. Almost everyone felt that the hand of God had led in establishing the work, which we have undertaken, and we have no right to abandon it or to turn it over to others."

In 1903 was the first college commencement. Thomas Lucas and Earl Hill had entered as freshmen in 1899 and had pursued the course for four years to graduation. Because the academic course had been strengthened to include three years instead of two there were no academy graduates this year.

Samuel Haworth on May 3, after a year of faithful service as college president, preached his farewell sermon to Central City Friends preparatory to his leaving for his former home in Tennessee. His wife's health had necessitated her leaving Nebraska some months before, and he himself had not been strong. It was not easy for Nebraska Friends to let him go, for his devotion to the cause and his faith in it had contributed much to its welfare. In the lecture that he gave in November at the opera house to raise money for the piano fund, he had answered his title question: "Who Is the Lucky Fellow" with the declaration that "I am the lucky fellow." This cheerful optimism was characteristic of his attitude throughout a year that had demanded much energy, resourcefulness, and courage. Before leaving he had secured subscriptions for almost \$1500.00 to be paid within three years and used for permanent improvement and running expenses. In his final message, he assured the church that as this was God's work, it was bound to succeed if God's people daily did their duty and held steadfast.

At a board meeting held Feb. 20 of that year, Prof. Hadley was elected president to follow Samuel L. Haworth. Miss Roberts was reelected to serve a fifth year, but would not accept further work. Thus again the school had all new teachers except Mr. Perry - Prof. Hadley and Mrs. Nettleton - for Mrs. Hadley did not teach the second year. Wilfred D. Gibson, who had come with his family to the college section from Appleton, Wisconsin, had H. Josephine Griffin, of Appleton, Wisconsin, came to serve as professor of Ancient and Modern Languages. Reba



Elizabeth Jenkins, of Winona, Ohio, was elected a professor of history, literature, and vocal music, and Edith Painter Jenkins, her sister, was elected an instructor in instrumental music. As professor of science, Thomas Marcus Blakslee was elected, thus completing the entire list. In scholarship, this faculty ranked higher than any Nebraska Central had had. Pres. Hadley held a bachelor's degree from Penn College; Reba Elizabeth Jenkins, one from Earlham; H. Josephine Griffin, a Master's; and T. M. Blakslee, a graduate of Yale, held a doctorate in mathematics and had spent some time in Germany pursuing his favorite subjects; Edith Painter Jenkins was a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and was proficient in the violin as well as piano music.

The year of 1903-1904, Mahlon Perry had charge of the Bible instruction which included two classes, - the college students and senior academy class in one group and the first and second year academy classes in the other. The opening chapel service was one of unusual interest this year. President Hadley, after a short address, introduced each member of the faculty who in turn spoke briefly. Prof. Blakslee's talk was characteristic of the man: "While inspiration is good, perspiration is better. Johnny's prayer was, 'O Lord, make Johnny a good boy, and if at first you don't succeed, try, try again.' "

Mr. Perry told of his reply to Iowa people at Yearly Meeting who had spoken of the college as a little over on the frontier. He told them if they thought that, to come over and see and they would find one of the prettiest places this side of the pearly gates.

The responsibility of keeping the building in repair and the campus in good condition devolved up. The school had never had a janitor except students who had done janitor work for tuition. on the furnishing committee of the executive board. This gratuitous work, however, was usually done by a larger group than that which made up this committee. The September 1903, issue of The Nebraska Friend contains this item: "The work of the furnishing committee is in evidence in various places. The damage done to the boys' dormitory by the fire has been partially repaired, the roof of the college building has been mended, papering and calcimining has been attended to, recitation seats put in order, and various other needed repairs have been made. Some of the ladies took the dining room in hand and secured funds for papering and



painting it. Nearly everyone on the section has had a hand in cleaning the buildings and putting them into good shape for the opening of the school. This is certainly our college."

The beginning of the school year seemed very propitious, and on the whole it was a good school year. Scholarship was maintained at a high standard, and strict rules were enforced without fear or favor. Although two college students had graduated the preceding June and there had been no graduating class from the academy because the course had been strengthened by the addition of another year, yet there was a 50 percent increase in the number of college students. On the other hand some indications were not so favorable. Only four of the twelve who had been disappointed in not graduating from the academy in 1903 came back and received their diplomas in 1904. An undertone of revolt at the vigorous regime threatened at times to become distinctly audible. President Hadley's program of procedure was better adapted to younger students perhaps than to the more mature young people who constituted a large proportion of the students at that time. The standards that he set up, however, helped to make the school meet the scholastic requirements for state recognition.

This year boasted a good chorus class at N.C.C. Reba Elizabeth Jenkins directed a one-hour class of fifteen which met for practice at noontime almost every day with the echo to the strains of "O Italia, Italia Beloved" and other chorus pieces equally beautiful. Among the voices of this first chorus were those of Mary Kellogg, Bertha Fraker, Lou Schultz, Clara Wilder, James Wilder, Clyde Roberts, Charles and William Grieve, and Dean Smith.

The Spartan and Athenian Literary Societies again held a large place in school life. Just before Christmas each organization gave a society public, - the Spartans, an "Evening with the South" and the Athenians, "National Program." Later they held another contest, the Athenians this year gaining the victor's laurels. At one of the regular meetings a program in the form of a magazine was given which was interspersed with scenes, an illustrated story, and acted advertisements. Vance Butts received special commendation for acting the part of the Negro waiter in the Cream of Wheat advertisement.

Quite a social reform movement was undertaken under the auspices of the literary societies. The feeling was expressed that the students in their earnest desire for knowledge were neglecting the social side of their nature. At an Athenian Society meeting, Elizabeth Jenkins in a



few well-chosen remarks pointed out some of the most urgent needs, telling the students that after finishing college, much would be expected and required of them as they came in contact with different classes of people. She showed that in the social part of college life the rough edges are smoothed off and more polish and refinement are gained than from any other part of school life. Josephine Griffin heartily endorsed these statements and added further that acquiring this polish does not deprive one of being well learned and scholarly. Prof. Blakslee furnished the climax to these remarks when he humbly stood up, as he said, "a frightful example" of one who had not cultivated his social life. He then gave some very interesting personal experiences to prove his contention. Following these talks, a committee was appointed to confer with a like committee from the Spartan Society and one from the faculty to make arrangements for more social events in connection with college life. As a result of this action, some very pleasant social functions were held at the college that year; probably one of the most successful being the valentine party.

The outstanding social event for the college community that year was the Thanksgiving dinner held at the college by the members of the Friends church. More than a hundred Friends, with quite a number of their neighbors, who were cordially invited, assembled in this (as it had come to be) annual social gathering. "After enjoying a very bountiful dinner, for their appetites had been whetted by the ride or walk of two miles from an unusually inspiring union Thanksgiving service at the church. They spent the remainder of the afternoon in social intercourse, and after taking supper in the college dining room, joined in one of the most blessed prayer meetings of the whole year. The Holy Spirit's inspiring presence was abundantly manifested by the fact that nearly everyone present responded to His gracious influence." This annual custom of having a Thanksgiving dinner at the college was observed almost every year for twenty years after the founding of the college.

One of the landmarks in the progress of the school that year was the visit on Oct. 24 and 25, of Willis R. Hotchkiss, a missionary on furlough from his work in Africa. His talk to the students at the college on Saturday and his sermons at the church on Sunday were magnetic in their power to draw and hold the attention and sympathy of his audience. Not only did he arouse a fresh interest in missions; he also quickened the desire for effective Christian service. "He



saved others, himself He cannot save, are the truest words ever uttered," he said. "His revilers thought the test of His divinity would be to come down from the cross, but He gave the highest proof of His divine son-ship by remaining on the cross when he might have left it." Mingled with helpful suggestions and beautiful thoughts were accounts of thrilling experiences on the mission field.

The big event of 1903-1904 at N.C.C. was the state oratorical contest of the National Intercollegiate Prohibition Association, which was held in the opera house Wednesday evening, April 20. In October the national secretary, D. Leigh Colvin, visited the college and gave a lecture at the church on Sunday afternoon on Good Citizenship, and one to the local league at the college the next evening. The local league held a contest on March 14 in which Everett Myers, James Wilder, Lela Wildman, and Dean Smith gave orations. James Wilder with his oration entitled "Quo Jure" won the right to represent Nebraska Central in the state contest. Five other colleges sent representatives to participate in the conference and contest which included an address at the Friends church Tuesday evening, April 19, a conference at the college the next morning, a business meeting in the afternoon and the crowning event, the contest at the Grand Opera House the evening of April 20. A large crowd filled the auditorium. College colors and college yells gave evidence of the friendly rivalry between the institutions represented. Above all, however, "it was a struggle of brain and eloquence, and the productions were all of a high order of merit, forming a symposium of the best arguments in favor of the subject. The audience, by its extensive proportions and sympathetic appreciation lent encouragement to the speakers and drew forth their best efforts." Although Nebraska Central did not win a place, yet the inspiration received and the contacts made with other colleges made the occasion a memorable one.

Taken all together, the year was a good one. But the Board of Trustees of the college missed the funds that had not come in because no one had been in the field soliciting as Samuel Haworth had done the preceding year. By the time the year was half gone the financial situation was becoming acute. From the beginning, the management of the school had been committed to the policy of non-indebtedness. At a meeting of the board held February 19, Eli H. Perisho was elected president of the college for three years with power to choose his own teachers subject to



the approval of the board of trustees. He was also to assume the financial management of the institution. At the executive board meeting in June, the treasurer was directed to issue a due bill to the faculty for the three and one half months pay yet due on the 25% guarantee and to pay the same as subscriptions are collected. A vote of thanks was given President Hadley, in appreciation of his earnest effort in behalf of the college.

Five years of school work were now completed. With only fifteen students in the college department, the school was predominantly academic and eighth grade in character. The average age of the students was considerably younger than it was the first year, and minds were less mature. Scholarship was emphasized, however, and a student attitude was established more thoroughly than it had been before. One year added to the academy course qualified the graduates to enter the freshman class of the state university or other colleges of the state. Little had been done in the way of improvements of the college building. Additions had been made to the library and to the museum. But the school had struggled to maintain its life under adverse conditions. Since the founding of the school in 1899, it had four presidents, eleven changes in the personnel of the teaching staff aside from the changes in the various departmental heads, — music, art, business teachers. Mrs. Daisy Nettleton, of the department of elocution and physical culture, was the only faculty member who had remained the five years, and she was leaving at the close of this year. The executive board had also undergone a complete change in personnel. None of the officers of the board of 1899 were on the executive board in 1904. There had been no violent eruptions or upheavals. Many of the changes on the board had been made because of the removal of the incumbent to other places of labor. Faculty members failed to get a living wage for their services, or at least not as much or as certain pay as could be earned in other places. Perhaps the lack of a centralizing figure strong enough to unite the varying currents of personality into a common stream of action toward a common goal was responsible for this instability. But the college had gone on sufficiently successful to enrich the lives of many young people, and the Friends of Central City were proving themselves bulwarks of Christian faith that could withstand many attacks of discouragement and still remain steadfast. Mrs. Nettleton's pupils show the effect of good drill".



## PRESIDENT CARRELL TAKES THE HELM

Nebraska Central College had seven presidents during the first twenty-two years as a Friends institution. On June 1, 1921, Ora W. Carrell began his term of service as the eighth president and has remained in that position until the present. After graduating from Penn College in 1908, Mr. Carrell had spent almost a year of study at the University of Iowa doing work toward a master's degree which he very nearly completed, and at the same time he served as pastor of the Friends Meeting at Muscatine, Iowa. In June 1912, he married Golda O. Ruan, and that September they both became students at the Hartford Theological Seminary, at Hartford, Connecticut, where they remained three years. During that time, Mr. Carrell served as pastor of Friends Meetings in New England. They both received the bachelor of divinity degree in June 1915 and that summer took up work again in Iowa where Mr. Carrell served for three years as student secretary of Penn College, and as superintendent of the young people's society of Christian Endeavor of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends. He filled these places for the next three years. He accepted a call to serve as pastor of the Central City Friends Meeting in 1918 and arrived in Central City on October 5, of that year. Thus he served the three years previous to the acceptance of the presidency as pastor of the local meeting and as head of the religious education department at the college.

A debt of more than fourteen thousand dollars besides teachers' salaries that were still unpaid overshadowed the institution when Ora W. Carrell assumed his new duties June 1, 1921. Resources amounting to more than three thousand dollars left the net indebtedness somewhat smaller and compared with that of larger institutions might seem of minor consequence. But Nebraska Friends were few in number. Most of them were farmers who were almost constantly contending with hail, drought, and hot winds. President Carrell set himself at once to the task of lowering the deficit and increasing the resources. At the 1921 session of the Yearly Meeting, the college Board of Trustees informed the representative body of the fact that the cost of maintaining the school exceeded by \$5500 the available resources from tuition, rental, endowment interest, and other sources of income. The problem must be faced. With one voice, the representatives of the various meetings of the Yearly Meeting said, "The doors of N.C.C. must Not be closed." The Yearly Meeting voted to assume obligations of providing funds to aid



in meeting the running expenses of the college. This subscription was to be known as the Sustaining Fund. A committee made up of Loren A. Phinney, William P. Jester, and E. H. Myers, was appointed to have charge of this fund. That year \$977.95 was raised for this purpose.

In the summer of 1921, Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Marshall of Washington Springs, South Dakota, deeded 300 acres of Tennessee land to the college, free of debt. The only condition made with the gift was that the land be sold as quickly as possible that the proceeds might be used at once in the place where it would be most needed. From the sale of this land, the college received \$847.35.

Soon after receiving the Tennessee land, the college received twenty-five acres of land lying just west of the campus from James and Orissa K. Stephen. An irrigation plant was installed at once for \$1250 by which a plentiful supply of water was made accessible for the entire twenty-five acre tract. To protect this irrigation plant, a substantial cement cover-house was built over it. The farm was placed under the care of David Tuning and became a productive farm at once; set with five acres of alfalfa, ten acres of sugar beets, and the remainder in grass feeds except the two acres reserved for a garden and a plot of ground for an orchard where, through the efforts of Dr. S. L. Hull and others, eighty fruit trees, various shrubs and vines, rhubarb and asparagus were planted. Another addition to the farm was that of nine spotted Poland China hogs, all registered, which was the gift of David Tuning and Ray Ellis.

Another project was undertaken in June 1922. This plan for helping the college was undertaken by ex-students, association members, officers, etc. Its goal was to raise a sum of money by contributions from ex-students who agreed to pay not less than \$10 a year for a period of at least ten years and as much longer than ten years as desirable. When raised, the fund was to be used by lending it in sums not exceeding \$125, except in special cases or where the fund justifies larger loans, to worthy young people whom without such help would not be able to attend college. The student was to repay after he had completed his college work and had time to earn money for repayment. By June 1923, this fund contained \$3270 and was proving to be a great help both to the school and to the students.



The February 1923 issue of the college bulletin announced the launching of the twenty-fifth anniversary campaign which had as its goal the securing of twenty-five thousand dollars. This amount would be required to make Nebraska Central College free from debt at the time of the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration June 4, 1924. The campaign was to be conditional – 75% of every pledge taken to be given upon the condition that the sum of \$25,000 in cash and bankable notes must be obtained by a given time or the pledge would not be binding. This campaign was endorsed by the Board of Education of the Five Years Meeting, by the General Superintendent of Nebraska Yearly Meeting, by the Business Men's Club of Central City, and by the pastors of the Central City churches. The committee appointed by the Board of Trustees to have charge of this campaign, consisted of Charles N. Replogle, Chairman; O. W. Carrell, secretary; and J. G. Engle, Everett Myers and Guy Solt, Committeemen. Others who helped later in promoting the project were Harold W. Myers, Charles E. Ellis, Leroy G. Waggner, and Raymond S. Holding.

In view of the difficult financial conditions which existed throughout the western states and particularly among the western farmers of this section, the response from those contributing was most encouraging. The sacrificial giving on the part of parents and young people alike to meet the pressing needs of the college gives evidence of the attitude to Nebraska Friends toward their college. One member of the church after making his gift of \$500 said, "I know that this will mean that we will have to sacrifice many of the things that we had planned for our home this year, but we are glad to give it to the college and for the work of Christ." Many similar examples of sacrificial giving might be enumerated. On August 6, the total pledges which had been received during the campaign amounted to \$13,452.85. One gift of \$800, eight gifts of \$500 each, six gifts of \$200 each, twenty-five gifts of \$100 each and other gifts of varying amounts made up the total sum. The canvass had been thorough, and the possibility seemed exhausted, yet the need was for twenty-five thousand dollars. The college board and campaign committee at a joint meeting determined to extend the time until the following year. Plans were made for a representative from the college to make a trip to the East to make further solicitation. Early in December the chairman of the campaign committee, Charles Replogle, with his wife, May Replogle, went east to New England where they canvassed the Friends of New England



Yearly Meeting. In a few weeks time he sent cash and pledges amounting to about \$500, together with a pledge from Sarah J. Swift of Worcester, Massachusetts, for \$5000 to be paid as soon as the remainder of the twenty-five thousand dollars should be raised. This splendid gift gave great encouragement to all connected with the campaign. In February 1924, President O. W. Carrell went east to Philadelphia where he joined Charles and May Replogle in soliciting Friends of Baltimore, and other eastern cities. By the first of March the goal had been reached and a total of about \$28,000 had been raised. General rejoicing prevailed at this happy termination of the campaign.

Nebraska Friends had joined in the Forward Movement of the Five Years Meeting and in 1921 received as its share of the funds raised \$3421.09 and the next year \$144.07. The Five Years Meeting in 1922 accepted the responsibility of helping Nebraska Central College as a part of its home mission work, and for the next three years contributed \$5340 to its support.

President Carrell found when he took over the administrative duties of his office that one of the foremost assistants in the work was the College Auxiliary. At that time Jennie Grieve was president and Ora Crosbie, secretary. In the year ending March 1920, the auxiliary had contributed \$362, the following year its money contribution was \$240.70 and in the year of 1921 and '22 it raised \$313.12. This money was received through serving banquets, through the donating of Sunday eggs, through quilting, tying comforters and doing other types of work. In the year of '24 and '25, the auxiliary quilted 18 quilts and tied three comforters.

During this first period of President Carrell's management, the auxiliary instigated the making of several improvements and in some instances were wholly responsible for completing the project. During the summer of 1922, 570 quarts of canned fruits and vegetables were contributed to the boarding club through the efforts of the Auxiliary. Dried corn, honey, apples and other products were donated. The meetings of Central City, Elk Valley, Springbank, Kemma and North Loup all had a part in these contributions. These gifts did much to reduce the cost of meals for the students. Through the cooperation of the College Auxiliary and the College Board, both dormitories were put into good condition for the opening of the college year. Soon after the beginning of school that year, the College Auxiliary, through the help of William C. Shelton, Frank Way, George Engle and others installed and equipped a toilet room with a shower



bath in the men's dormitory and installed a new bath tub and a hot water heater in the girls' dormitory. The next year, the College Auxiliary equipped a rest room for the girls in the main college building and the year following that installed a drinking fountain in the lower hall of the same building.

With the keen appreciation of the efforts of the Auxiliary on their behalf, the dormitory girls decided to contribute their bit toward furnishing rooms in their building. Accordingly, they arranged a benefit program to be given February 6, 1925, every girl had a part in the work. The program was made up of piano solos and duets, readings, a story and a play "Yes, George" by Booth Tarkington. From the proceeds thus gained, the girls got new shades and drapes for the windows of the reception room, refinished the walls and made other improvements. The same year, through the kindness of interested Friends, new draperies were placed at all of the windows of the chapel, library, and study hall. One more improvement made a decided change in the appearance of the chapel. The expression department secured for that room gray hangings for the stage, especially arranged for the presentation of plays and recitals. The chapel stage was also built out to provide more room for the giving of public programs.

Nebraska Central College was one of the first colleges in the state to own a complete radio receiving set. This set came as a gift from Charles and May Replogle and was installed by the men's brotherhood of Central City Friends Meeting.

The Arthur H. Thomas Company of Philadelphia, made a very helpful donation to the college as a result of the visit of President Carrell and Charles Replogle to the head of this firm in the interest of the college. The donation consisted of a shipment of supplies for the chemical laboratory and included high grade scales, several types of desiccators, instruments to form water, to decompose water, hydrometers, oil testers, various kinds of measuring devices and many other useful pieces. This gift was highly prized, for the laboratory was in great need of just such supplies as it included.

President Carrell's administrative duties included much more than merely the management of the financial side of the school life and the business connected with it. Upon first assuming his duties, he arranged for a thorough canvass for students to be made during the summer months. Professor Whitely and Professor Murray devoted considerable time to this



work before commencement time in the spring. During the summer, Guy W. Solt, Harold Myers and Loren Tilton assisted by President Carrell carried on an active campaign of solicitation for students. The college attendance that had been greatly depleted during the world war, had come back slowly to normal. By the year of 1920-21 the total number enrolled was 95 with 76 students in the academy and 17 in the college department. In 1921-22, while the net enrollment was only 90, the college department had an enrollment of 23. This increase in college attendance grew rapidly so that in 1924-25 the college students numbered 56 while the academy students numbered 68, making a total, including six special students, of 130. The year preceding that, the year of 1923-24, shows the largest enrollment in the history of the college when counting only those taking the regular work, that year there were 53 college students and 87 academy students, making a total enrollment of 140 who were taking regular work. This growth in numbers can be attributed to several reasons: in the first place, colleges everywhere were showing large increases in enrollment due to the prevailing popularity of the theory that every boy and girl should have a college education, and also to the fact that money was more plentiful during this early postwar period. Another reason for the growth in the college department was the raising of the requirements by the state authorities for the certification of teachers. At least one year of college work was being required for the granting of any certificate above the third grade to inexperienced candidates for teaching. This ruling required prospective teachers to take at least one year of college work after they had graduated from the high school. Consequently, many graduates who would have gone directly into the teaching field enrolled at Nebraska Central for the necessary normal work. Another reason for the increased attendance was the preparation that the college had made to offer pre professional courses for students expecting to study law, medicine, dental work, business administration, journalism or to prepare for nursing. This offer made the college attractive to a large group of young people who before had not been interested in what the college could give them. But still another reason for this growth in the school was the unstinted measure of energy, enthusiasm and wholehearted devotion of President and Mrs. Carrell, as they took up their duties under the new regime. New life was being instilled into every phase of the work. The curriculum was extended to include more departments and the



various departments were being strengthened, the number of members in the faculty was increased and in every way the school was taking a forward look.

The faculty for the first year was almost the same as that of the preceding year. Ruth Hull resigned her position of science to enter the Nebraska State College of Medicine at Omaha and Professor Crosbie was given charge of the science work in order that Miss Brucia Dedinsky might be secured for the professor of modern language. Miss Dedinsky, a Russian by birth had studied modern languages for several years in England, France and Germany. For three years she taught European history, and the French and German languages at the college, and remained at that work since that time. Instead of Jennie Joyce as instructor in Spanish, Rev. Raymond S. Holding, who followed President Carrell as pastor of Central City Friends Meeting, taught the Spanish language that year and the two years following. In 1920-25, Dr. Clatilde then became professor of Spanish as Raymond Holding had gone to Newburg, Oregon to serve as pastor of the Friends Meeting at that place. Other members of the faculty during the first four years of the presidency of O.W. Carrell included Julia M. Mesner, who had charge of the English department the first three years. She was followed in 1924-25 by Edith Jessup Comfort. Golda O. Ruan Carrell had charge of the expression and vocal music work, and also of the girls' athletics throughout the entire period. Paul L. Whitely was head of the department of psychology and education for 1921-22, after which time Forrest D. Comfort of Penn College filled that position. Earl Murray taught mathematics the first year after which he was succeeded by Charles E. Ellis who taught mathematics and science in 1922-23. The remaining two years Portia Kellogg was head of the mathematics department, and Professor Ellis devoted his whole time to the teaching of science. During 1922-23 and 23-24, Harold Myers was one of the teachers in the academy department. Other teachers who were here for more than one year included Frederick E. Hess who taught violin and orchestral instruments the last three years, and Miss Jessie Benton who taught piano in 1921-22 and 1922-23. Elvira Smith was the instructor in Bookkeeping in 1921-22. That same year Nell Owens Olsen was the instructor in the violin. Bertha Ross was the instructor in piano in 1923-24. One year, 1923-24, Paul C. Thronelly served as football coach and director of athletics. In 1924-25, J. Winfred Mathers was director of athletics and served as instructor in various other subjects. His wife, M. Helen Mathers, taught home economics and



assisted in the English department. That year Jessie Webster Foster, the Congregational minister at Clarks, served as instructor of art at the college.

Golda O. Ruan Carrell taught a course in debating in 1921-22 and aroused considerable interest in that subject. Two teams of debaters met teams from the Grand Island Baptist College in a duel debate and both teams representing Nebraska Central were victorious. The affirmative team was made up of Guy W. Solt, Luetta Watkins, Turner Moon with William Moore as alternate. On the negative team were Mary Ida Winder, Henry Engle, Wesley Schutz, with Edwin Hanson as alternate.

The next year Nebraska Central became a member of the state debating league between colleges and debates were scheduled with Grand Island, Hastings, York, Cotner and Kearney State Normal. This time the teams were made up of Guy W. Solt, Cecil Scofield, and Alfred Smith on the affirmative with Warren Marsh as alternate, and of Patrick Heaton, Wesley Schutz and Bess Marsh on the negative with Henry Engel as their alternate. These teams were successful in more than half of the encounters and it seemed for a time that they might win the state championship. The Centralian naively remarked in giving an account of the negative team's success in its encounter at Grand Island, "The team hasn't decided yet whether the decision was due to Pat's smile, Wesley's logic or to Bess's rebuttal speech, but we students feel that it was due to a combination of the three." Enthusiasm ran high between the students and patrons of the school and, as usual, an audience of two hundred or more greeted the debaters and gave generous support to their efforts.

President and Mrs. Carrell were then the owners of a Model T sedan which proved its usefulness to the debating teams on long or short trips in fair or foul weather. This Model T had been christened Polly Anna because of its ever ready efficiency, and if Polly Anna had published her own biography she could have recounted some interesting adventures. One of these adventures is related somewhat at length in the March Centralian for 1923. The incident which it relates began on March 17, when "the negative debating team, with alternate and coach, climbed into Polly Anna and hied away to Hastings where they were entertained at an afternoon tea by Hastings college, the chief event of which was a dispute over war debts." (The debates subject that year). At the time of their leaving Central City, the fair weather and south wind made



blankets and heavy coats seem unnecessary, but in a short time a cold wind from the north and a flurry of snow announced a change in weather conditions. By the time Polly Anna was rolling into Hastings she had quite a storm at her back and during the time the debaters were waxing eloquent up in the chapel, Polly Anna, although in a sheltered spot, was freezing up. "When the dispute was over, a blinding ferocious blizzard was howling and roaring down the streets of Hastings, but Polly Anna's mute appeal was disregarded, her supper given to her, her circulatory system thawed out, and her face directed toward home. \* \* \* Great masses of seething and rising snow flakes were incessantly hurled into Polly Anna's determined countenance while inside chattering orators were employing every conceivable device of generating and retaining bodily warmth. \* \* \* A stretch of east and west road was encountered that was well nigh impassable. Even Polly Anna's keen sense of direction proved inadequate here, for just before making the corner she lost her balance and slid into the ditch. With the help of the passengers, she finally plowed back onto the road. The wind blew harder and harder so that it became more and more difficult to see the way. Polly Anna groped along blindly, stopping repeatedly to orientate and gasp for breath, and often swaying carelessly near the edge of the ditch. Her way soon became so hazardous that when the light of a farm house flickered dimly through the storm, the travelers decided to let her seek shelter behind the buildings and, incidentally, seek the comfort of a warm room for themselves."

The story goes on to tell of the night spent in the warm kitchen of the farm house where they whiled the hours away by talking, reading, taking sups of coffee which their hostess had provided for them before retiring and taking bits of naps as the occasion offered. When morning dawned and after they had partaken of a hearty breakfast, they again turned Polly Anna northward toward Grand Island. The still raging storm and the extreme cold caused them to secure lodging for Polly Anna in a Grand Island garage while her worn out travelers boarded the train for Central City. Such stories of adventure supplied part of the byproduct of the debating season which the debaters would not soon forget.

Nebraska Central won seven debates that year and lost three. During the following years, debating continued to be a popular activity, and the home teams made good records winning at least half of the decisions each year.



Until 1918, the college had consistently participated in the state prohibition oratorical contests. Then in 1922, a series of peace oratorical contests began. The work began as a local contest sponsored by the peace association of Friends of the Five Years Meeting. Six contestants wrote and gave orations. First place was won by Mary Ida Winder, a close second by Ruth Tuning, while third place was accorded to Louetta Watkins. In 1923, a state peace oratorical contest in which Nebraska Central was one of five colleges to participate, was held at Lincoln, Nebr. Bess Marsh, who had won first place in the local contest of seven contestants was Nebraska Central's representative. Throughout this period, the local contest was given each year and much enthusiasm was created in this work.

In 1924 Nebraska Central was represented for the first time in the Nebraska state extemporaneous speaking contest. This representation continued for a number of years. Closely related to these forensic activities were the essay contests that were held for college students, in 1923-24 a Quaker essay contest was held as a part of the three hundredth anniversary celebration of the birth of George Fox. Essays on some phase of Quakerism were submitted. First place was won by Helen Holding, whose theme was written on the subject of worship. In the spring of 1925 an oratorical contest was held in which only academy students could compete.

Among the many new features instituted at the college during this period was the issuing in the spring of 1924 of a college annual. This annual is a neat book eight by ten inches and named the *Amicus*. The chief members of the staff for promoting this project were Wesley Schutz, editor; Guy Solt, manager; Arley Scofield, sales manager; and Harold Evans, advertising manager. Due to their planning and persistence, an interesting accumulation of pictures and data was put together in a way that did justice to the new project and afforded much delight to the subscribers. The volume was dedicated to Professor Milo H. Crosbie.

For some time after the World War, athletics did not hold as prominent a place among school activities as it had previously. The scarcity of men was responsible for this change. By the fall of 1921 however, football had already been reintroduced into the school life. This year and the year preceding, Professor Earl Murray of the department of mathematics served as football coach, and although no games were won in the intercollegiate contest, yet it was a season of good wholesome activity for the men of the school. Most of the players on the team



were academy men and could not match in either weight or skill the teams from the other colleges, but they gained reputation for their good sportsmanship and their square dealing. In 1922 a larger number of men were in school and under the coaching of Bryan W. Stromer, a University of Nebraska man, the team showed an improvement in ability and skill. One victory was gained that year and teams much heavier than Central's team were scored against. The next year, Central again won one game and tied in two others. This year the team was under the direction of Coach Thornelly. Feeling somewhat encouraged with these efforts, the athletic manager arranged a schedule of seven games. Some of the games were with leading colleges of the state for 1924-25. The boys this year however, failed to keep up their previous record, although the team and the coach were perhaps as efficient as those of the preceding year. No attempt was made to play basketball until the winter of 1924, when a team was organized and played three intercollegiate games. However, the players could practice only by going into town and this plan of procedure could not produce a winning team. More and more strongly, the need of a college gymnasium was being felt.

In track the men were somewhat more successful. In the spring of 1922 a triangular meet with York, Doane and Nebraska Central College as competitors resulted in 55 points for Nebraska Central, 74 points for Doane, and 23 points for York. Warren Marsh, a Central athlete captured the individual honors with 20  $\frac{3}{4}$  points. In a dual meet with York, Nebraska Central gained 82  $\frac{1}{2}$  points and York 42  $\frac{1}{2}$  points. In 1923 N.C.C., in a dual meet with Grand Island, scored 81 points to Grand Island's 50. In 1924 the letter men of Nebraska Central formed a "C" club and this club in turn sponsored a Nebraska Central College - High school invitational track meet in which the high schools near Central City participated. This event was the first of its kind to be held on the campus, but it has since become one of the annual events, although no longer sponsored by the "C" club.

The college girls did not engage in intercollegiate athletics. However, a course in physical education was required of all girls. This course was under the supervision of Golda O. Ruan Carrell. In 1924 each girl was given a physical examination and an effort was made to make the course fit the physical needs of each girl. This physical examination has become a regular requirement for all students in college. In April 1924, a Women's Athletic Association



was organized. This Association was to cooperate with the department of physical education for the promotion of right living and good fellowship among the women of the college. Membership was open to every girl and could be acquired by earning a number of points along certain lines of activity. These lines include hiking, hockey, tennis and basketball. The first officers of the W.A.A. were Helen Holding, president; Violette Turnby, vice president; Evelyn Mott, secretary; Ruth Packwood, recording secretary; treasurer, Josie McAfee.

Through the first twenty-five years of Nebraska Central's history the week's work had begun on Tuesday morning and continued until Saturday afternoon, thus having Monday as the free day of the week instead of Saturday. In October 1924, agitation was aroused to change the old system and to have the school week begin on Monday and end Friday. Much consideration and discussion were evoked and when the proposition was placed before the students for a deciding vote, the new system won by a majority of only three votes. The deciding issue was the fact that more students could find employment on Saturdays than on Mondays. The new plan was put into operation on Monday, October 27.

President Carrell especially emphasized the importance of the chapel period and sought constantly to make it both interesting and profitable. Members of the faculty gave talks in their regular turn and these talks had something of a cosmopolitan tone, since Miss Dedinsky had received her education in Russia; Raymond Holding had spent many years in Cuba and Mexico as a missionary. Others of the faculty had come from California, Indiana and other states in the Union. As Central City is located on the transcontinental line of the Union Pacific railroad, many traveling Friends found it convenient to stop at Central City and speak to the students at chapel, among these were English Friends and many others of wide learning and rich experience. Variety was given to these chapel exercises by an occasional program of music and of essays or orations furnished from the English department by the students who had written them. Once each year the chapel was given over to a spelling contest in which every student was expected to participate. This was done for the purpose of stimulating an interest in correct spelling and considerable interest was aroused in this each year.

The social life of the school was largely under the direction of the Y.M. and Y.W. Christian Associations assisted by the social committee of the faculty. The receptions at the



opening of each semester remained outstanding events of the school year. The football banquet was largely attended, not only by the college people, but by friends of the college as well. The Christian Association banquet held in the early spring was another event of great importance. On December 11, we are told, a crowd of some forty students, regardless of the cold wave that had swept down from the north, found their way to the roller skating rink for an evening of fun and also to raise funds for a special purpose, for the event was sponsored by the Young Men's Christian Association in their effort to raise money to equip a reading room, a ping pong table, and to provide boxing gloves and similar aids for the boys leisure hours. At a special meeting of the men of the school, volunteer contributions were received for this fund and altogether the amount obtained was sixty dollars. This room was fitted up in Hord Hall and added much to the recreational resources for the students.

A long list of commencement activities was arranged for the closing week of school which included programs by the College Glee Club, students of the Department of Expression; and the June festival on Monday evening. On Tuesday evening June 3, the twenty-fifth anniversary banquet in which two hundred persons participated. The next day, June 4, was given over for anniversary celebration events. At ten o'clock, a program in the college chapel began with the hymn "Faith of Our Fathers" and was followed by devotional exercises by Raymond S. Holding, pastor of the Central City Friends Meeting. Greetings were extended by Pres. O. W. Carrell on behalf of the faculty and students; by Charles H. Watkins on behalf of the Board of Trustees; by Charles Replogle on behalf of the Yearly Meeting; by Mayor J. H. Machamer on behalf of Central City; and by Robert H. Rice on behalf of the Businessmen's Club; a vocal solo was given by Mary Kellogg Peckham, of Poughkeepsie, New York, class of 1906; a paper written by Herbert J. Mott of Scott City, Kansas, on Nebraska Central College -- The Early Days, which was read by his daughter, AraBelle; a vocal solo was then given by Lee Ellis a student; following this an address by Robert E. Pretlow, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, field secretary of the American Friends Service Committee. After the closing hymn and benediction, a picnic dinner was enjoyed on the college campus. At two o'clock the afternoon session was opened by the singing of a hymn and devotional exercises, greetings from Nebraska College, greetings from Friends colleges were read by Milo H. Crosbie, then an original poem "After Twenty-five Years"



was read by the author William Earl Hill, Gandy, Nebraska, who was a member of the first graduating class; then followed the address of the afternoon. "Nebraska Central College in the Modern World" by B. Willis Beede, general secretary of the American Friends Board of Foreign Mission, Richmond, Indiana, followed with a song by the old students quartette. Charles Replogle spoke on "The Completion of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Campaign," then came the discussion led by President O. W. Carrell on the subject "Nebraska Central College of the Future - What? How? The Next Step,," and the closing hymn and benediction. Large numbers of local Friends and former students attended these meetings and thoroughly appreciated the special features of the program. A fine atmosphere of loyalty and thanksgiving prevailed. Wednesday night, college students presented "Servant in the House."



## FROM 1925 TO 1930

During the period from 1920 to 1925 the number of students in the college department increased 533 1/3%. In 1920 there were twelve college students, in 1925 the college students numbered 76 in addition to those enrolled in the academy. This increase in enrollment brought a tremendous challenge to the management of Nebraska Central College. The science laboratories were taxed to meet the needs of that department. Additional equipment was greatly needed for many of the class rooms, the reading room of the library was inadequate since it did not afford sufficient room for the students to do their work. Perhaps one of the greatest needs was that for a gymnasium, to be used not only for physical training and the intercollegiate games, but also for the larger gatherings and the social occasions of the college.

In the face of these needs, the college board at its midyear meeting held on Tuesday afternoon, January 19, 1926, undertook the initiation of a "Greater Nebraska Central College Campaign." On the previous evening a joint meeting of the board of trustees and the college auxiliary gave the following program "The Enrollment, Spirit, Progress, and Activities of the College" was discussed by Guy W. Solt. "The outstanding needs of Nebraska Central College in finance, new buildings, and equipment" was reviewed by the secretary of the college board, Charles E. Ellis. "Accomplishments and plans of the college auxiliary" were told by the President, Jennie W. Grieve. "The present challenge to a Greater Nebraska Central College Campaign" was explained by President O. W. Carrell. "Shall we meet this challenge of opportunity and need?" was the last topic and was presented by Harry A. Forzan, a member of the college board of trustees. The presentation of these subjects had deepened the already growing conviction that the forward steps must be taken by the college. Accordingly, after a long and careful consideration of the immediate needs and of possibilities for future growth and service, it was the unanimous decision of the board to enter at once upon this campaign with three definite goals or objectives:

1. Increase of endowment to the amount of Five hundred thousand dollars. This sum was ten times the amount of the endowment already secured; although they recognized much time would be required to secure such a large amount, it was the feeling of the Board that definite steps must be taken as rapidly as possible toward the attainment of this goal.



2. New buildings and equipment, not less than \$50,000 was needed for this objective since it was to include a separate Central Heating Plant, to be placed just north of the main building, and an Auditorium-Gymnasium a few rods south of the girls' Dormitory.

3.. Annual Sustaining Fund; \$25,000 was the amount fixed for this goal since it would provide sufficient sustaining funds for a three year period.

The difficult task involved in entering upon such a campaign was fully realized by the Board of Trustees, but it was their unanimous feeling that anything less than the program proposed was inadequate. Indeed it was the conviction of the Board that the future life and growth of the college was dependent upon such action being taken and that the time was fully come when a larger and more definite program must be entered upon.

The building program was to receive first consideration. It was decided by the board that a campaign should be put on in Merrick County for the securing of funds for this project.

As the first step in the accomplishment of this program was the innaugurating of the Merrick County Nebraska Central College Campaign with two objectives, that of new buildings and of sustaining funds, with the financial goal of \$75,000. To assist in this work, Edgar T. Hole of Richmond, Indiana, came on the first of March. The county was thoroughly organized and active solicitation begun. Because of serious crop failure and because of other conditions that caused financial difficulties, it was not possible to raise the amount. The Board of Trustees voted to alter the program and set as a goal the raising of \$25,000 to be used as sustaining funds and to defer the building program until later. While a liberal amount was received, yet even this goal was not realized. A year later the campaign for increasing the endowment was taken up under the management of the committee composed of Dr. Fred Fouts, Charles E. Ellis, Theo Foxworthy and President O. W. Carrell. As the result of this work, more than Twenty-five Thousand Dollars was added to the permanent endowment through bequests and wills. The coming of the financial depression halted all work of this kind and the campaign was postponed indefinitely. If this goal could have been reached, the history of Nebraska Central would have been far different that it is, but the persistence with which the management of the college continued to work in the face of



difficulties that was causing similar institutions in the state to close their doors is evidence of the courage and strength that was unconquerable.

To counteract the multiple growth of the college department was the gradual decline of the academy, which for twenty-five years had been the important part of the school work at N.C.C. Most of the time the number of academy students was three or four times that of the college students and the activities of the school had been carried on principally by those in the academy department, although in the majority of instances the leadership had come from the college students. In many respects the school furnished an ideal place for students to obtain their secondary education since during the formative period they were surrounded by an atmosphere that was collegiate in many of its aspects. Recognizing the fact that the school did furnish outstanding opportunities for students doing high school work, the state granted the privilege to rural school districts to pay the tuition of its eighth grade graduates in the academy if the students preferred the academy to the high school. Partly, as a result of this permission on the part of the state, the number of students in the academy increased until in 1923-24 the enrollment reached 87, the largest number enrolled in any one year in the academy department exclusively. As a result of protests from high schools over the state that felt the loss of tuition money, a ruling was passed revoking the right of rural school districts to pay tuition to parochial schools. Because of this fact and the fact that the tuition fees had doubled in five years, the academy department began to decline. In view of the circumstances, the school management felt that it would be wise to discontinue the academic department. After 1927 such courses were provided as are ordinarily included in the eleventh and twelfth grade high school work. The last class to graduate from the academy was the class of 1929, when three students received their academy diploma.

The discontinuing of the high school department has caused a noticeable decrease in attendance which has not since reached the peak attained in 1923-24 when the enrollment included 88 academy students and 53 college students. However, the college department continued to grow and in 1927 numbered 87 students. That number has not yet been surpassed. A fact which is due probably to the long series of drought and crop failure, along with the depression of the past ten years.



For some years, Guy W. Solt, a student at the college, had done active service in the work of the college, both as a member of the board of trustees and as a student solicitor. In the summer of 1925 he was put in general charge of the student campaign devoting time also to the financial interests of the school. Merle J. Benton was assisted in the solicitation for students and both did effective work. In the summer of 1928 Guy W. Solt, who had graduated in 1926, and had done a year of graduate work at Haverford, Pennsylvania, was engaged to serve as extension secretary for the college. This position Guy W. Solt kept for six years. In 1934, he resigned to accept work with the American Friends Service Committee.

During the fall of 1928 the college library received two valuable donations. Miss Pretlow presented nine volumes, all of them valuable for reference work. Mrs. Hottenstein contributed 84 volumes, all of these dealing with subjects in the field of religious education and Biblical work and are helpful, not only to the students in this department, but to the general readers as well. At the same time the college received two pictures of unusual merit and significance. They were presented through the American Friends Service Committee and had been sent directly from Germany to the service committee at Philadelphia. These pictures were sent by the people of Seliselsa in grateful appreciation for the Quaker child feeding which was carried on following the signing of the Armistice. This great work had been developed in Germany until more than one million children were given a meal a day.

The work in forensics was an important part of the school work throughout this period. The intercollegiate debates which had been under the leadership of Golda O. Ruan Carrell in 1922 were an important part of each winter's program; usually with dual debates between Nebraska Central and five or six of the colleges of the state each year. Each year, Nebraska Central made a creditable showing by winning as many as half of the contests, although her competitors, almost without exception, were much larger than Central. Each year a local peace oratorical contest was held with from five to seven contestants. In 1928 John Ferguson, the winner in the local contest, placed third in the state meet, and in 1930 Kenneth Hawkes, the local winner received second place in the state contest, with six other representatives from the strong colleges of the state. Nebraska Central also competed in the extemporaneous contest each year and in 1929, John Ferguson won first place in the state extempore meet. In 1928 the local college entertained the state forensic league when the



peace oratorical contest and the extemporaneous speaking contest were held. Almost every year essay contests on world peace or temperance were carried in both the college and the academy. In 1920, 37 students of the English department entered the essay and oratorical contests sponsored by the Anti-Saloon League of the state. Lawrence Selin of Hordville won first place in the essay contest and Leland Johanson of Cotesfield, received first place in the sectional contest at Hastings, but was given lower ranking at the state meet at Lincoln. As a prize for winning these contests, the state anti-saloon league bore the expenses for each of them on a trip to Detroit, Michigan, where they attended the National convention of the Anti-Saloon League held January 15-19.

On Friday, May 5, 1928, Nebraska Central was hostess to the Colleges and State Normal Schools of the state. This intercollegiate forensic Association was made up of fourteen different schools and at this meeting occurred the state Peace Oratorical contest and the state extemporaneous speaking contest.

Whittieran and Delphian Literary societies were active during the earlier part of this period, but in the latter part they were supplanted by other activities and were dropped from the list of campus organizations.

In the early part of the school year of 1926-27, a college council was organized. The purpose of this organization as given in its constitution was fivefold; First - to preserve and promote the best customs and traditions of the college. 2. To encourage and maintain high scholastic and social standards. 3. To extend to guests of the college the courtesies of students and faculty. 4. To suggest and encourage reforms as deemed advisable. 5. To serve as a medium of communication between students and faculty. It was made up of fourteen members: Henry Schutz who represented the day student men; Irene Muller representing the day student women; Warren Marsh representing the men's dormitory; Dorothy Nelson representing the women's dormitory; Vern Jones representing the Men's Christian Association; Ruth Benton representing the Young Women's Christian Association; Wesley Lindahl representing the athletic association; Bruce Gage representing the Centralian, the school paper; Orville Emry representing the academy. Five members were from the faculty: President O. W. Carrell; Dean M. H. Watson; Professor Peters; Dean of men's dormitory; Miss Thornburg, Dean of the women's dormitory; and Miss Strathan, who was elected as faculty representative. The first officers of the college council were Henry Schutz, president; Vern Jones,



vice president; Ruth Benton, secretary-treasurer. Four committees made up the remainder of the organization: social and calendar; scholastic and honor; traditions and precedents; dormitory. The new organization began work at once and has come to be a real force in the management of school life. A number of organizations put in their appearance during this period of college history. A college band was organized in January 1927. Professor Hess was conductor; Kenneth Hawkes, president; John Ferguson, business manager; and Ralph Benton served as secretary and treasurer. At the time of organization there were fourteen members who did consistent work and the band furnished music on different occasions. A men's glee club and girls' glee club were both organized and such activity was engaged in throughout the year. In February 1928 the men's glee club presented a Jubilee Minstrel Revue which proved to be a popular program. The program was made up of three parts; part one was made up of well rendered songs, interspersed with clever jokes and humorous dialogues. Dale Holtry as interlocutor was master of ceremonies. Mr. Alabama Abraham Alabaster (Mr. Ralph Benton), Mr. Brutus Bonapart Beezlebub, (Prof. Theodore Peters), Mr. Caesar Chesterfield Callossus (Mr. George Bishop), Mr. Daniel Doolittle Demosthenes (Mr. Ivan Waters), were the end men who served as black- faced comedians. In the center part of a semi-circle on the platform sat the chorus made up of ten other members of the men's glee club who contributed choruses, solos and duets, interspersed throughout part one. Part two of the program was entitled "Olio Specialties" and consisted of various novelty numbers. President Carrell's appearance as a lisping, stammering young man reading a letter just received from his brother Tham "was a humorous hit which brought down the house. When pressed for an encore, he reluctantly announced "Tham d-didn't write any more l-lettersh." Part three featured a debate on the question "Resolved: That They Ain't No Ghosts." The argument was carried on by Mr. Rastus Cottonblossum, Chairman (Joe Wright); Mr. Solomon Moses Hambone, (John Riddlemoser); and Mr. Hanibal Haunted Homes (Mr. Kenneth Hawkes). A large audience attended the revue, every moment of which was filled with rollicking merriment. Later the same program was given in other communities with marked success.

A Ukelele Club was another organization which played a prominent part in the social life of the college during 1925-26. The following year a Spanish club was organized under the leadership of Miss Pretlow, teacher of Spanish, and was made up of the first, second, and third year classes. The work of this club proved to be both educational and pleasurable for the members and remained



active that year and the year following. The Bachelors Club and the Slimies were organizations that left no lasting contribution but succeeded in gaining considerable notoriety

Not a new organization but a new custom was the instituting by the Y.W.C.A. of heart sister week, which was first observed February 7-11, 1927. For the first time mysterious packages from unknown sources were appearing for each girl. The mystery as well as the newness proved fascinating and "heart sister week" with all of its thrills and surprises has been observed ever since. At the beginning of the preceding year, a "Big Sister" campaign was carried on by the Y.W.C.A. ; each girl in the upper classes was assigned a freshman girl for whom she was to serve as big sister until the new girl had become acquainted with her new life. As a climax to this campaign, a luncheon for the new girls was served in room 19, which proved to be effective as a "get together" occasion. The same year the joint association had a watermelon feed and a steak fry as additional means for helping the new students to become adjusted to life at Nebraska Central. One home that stood out noteworthy in its contribution to the social life of N.C.C. was that of F. A. Marsh. One year the freshman class was entertained at a watermelon feed, another year the football squad was fed an oyster stew at the Fred Marsh home as a reward for a victory over the Grand Island squad. Many other such events marked their spirit of hospitality toward the college students. It was on October 28, 1927, that the first homecoming was observed at N.C.C. A special chapel at the college was the first event at this time. Gilbert Mesner, who was the instigator of the observance spoke at this time; also, Everett Smith, another former student spoke of the appeal of such an occasion. In the afternoon the football team won a decided victory over the team from the Grand Island Baptist College. Supper was then served to guests at the college and in the evening a program was given by the members of the Glee Club and the students of the expression department. Altogether, the day was voted a big success and the custom has been maintained ever since.

On May 6, 1927, the seniors of Merrick County high schools were entertained by the students and faculty at the college, all of the high schools of the county except Chapman and Silver Creek had full representation, making a group of 91 high school seniors in attendance. Each school contributed some part of the program that was given in the chapel, after which athletic stunts were participated in on the college campus and supper was served. This event proved to be significant in arousing the interest of high school graduates in the college.



In response to a feeling on the part of many members of the academy alumni association, it was voted to erect a flagpole on the campus in front of the college and to furnish for it a flag to be displayed on fitting occasions. This resolution became a fact during the next school year and a flag and flag pole were formally presented to the college on Columbus Day, October 12, 1927, with a fitting program held in the college chapel. The presentation was made by Milo H. Crosbie on behalf of the A.A.A. and President Carrell responded with a speech of acceptance. To close, the audience adjourned to the campus where, with fitting ceremonies the flag was hoisted by the president of the alumni association, John H. Ferguson, to the top of the pole where it unfolded to the breeze while the crowd below joined in the singing of "America."

A constant effort was made to maintain the high scholastic standards of the college. A new system of grading was instituted and was first carried into effect at the end of the first semester of the school year 1926-27. Up to this time the passing grade for the college student was 75%, but a feeling had developed among the members of the faculty that 25% was not great enough scale of variation to represent justly the difference in the scholarship of different students who were worthy or receiving a passing grade; consequently they fixed the passing grade at 60%, which would permit of the grading of the inferior student 40% below that of a perfect grade and yet permit his passing. By this method, the work of the superior student could be given the mark of distinguished merit which it deserved without inflicting an injustice upon the student who had not so thoroughly mastered the course of study. Instead of the letter grades as had been used for many years, the grades for the recording in the official grade book was to be expressed in percentage numbers.

The failure to successfully complete the Greater Nebraska Central College campaign made the financial problem of the school always a prominent one. For the school year 1928-29, President Carrell planned a banquet that was to be known as The Thousand Dollar Banquet as a means to secure financial assistance for the college. The plan undertaken was that of selling one hundred tickets for plates at the banquet. Each ticket was to be sold for \$10, the proceeds of which sale after the expense of the banquet had been deducted were to go to the college treasury. Careful preparations were made, 108 tickets were sold and the festive occasion was held at Liberty Hall on January 4, 1929. The hall was beautifully decorated and the tables were most attractive. College girls served as waitresses and served a well-appointed and delicious menu which consisted of turkey,



and all that goes with the serving of that famous food. At the program after the dinner, Robert Rice, editor of the Central City Republican, served as toastmaster.

Mr. J. W. Hurtchison and Mr. Edward Clark sang two duets; Madeline Turnby gave a series of child impersonations, after which Mrs. Hutchison sang two solos, then Walter W. Head, an Omaha banker of national prominence gave the address of the evening. He spoke on the responsibility of people in providing the best possible opportunities for their youth. The affair was a financial success. The college, after deducting \$230 used as expenses for the event realized a profit of \$850.

But the banquet was not merely the source of financial income. It was a distinctive event in its representative character with men and women present from every town and community of the county. It was distinctive in the character of its speaker and in the type of address which he brought. The banquet was also distinctive in the perfection of its settings and various appointments. The Central City Nonpareil said of it: "Perfect in every detail – decorations, music, program, menu, attendance, and, in fact, every feature was of the highest character." It was also distinctive in the delightful spirit which prevailed throughout the evening – a spirit of hearty co-operation between the community and the college. It seemed to mark the beginning of the new day in the work of the college, and in mutual relationship between the community and the college.

Athletics was made an important activity throughout this period, but only in football did the participants make a record that was outstanding. In the fall of 1925, the team under the coaching of Hubert Armstrong played six conference games. One of these games proved to be a victory for Nebraska Central, another game ended in a tie score, and in four games the local team suffered defeat. The next year Everett Crites, a graduate of the University of Nebraska, was athletic director. A prominent player on the University team, Mr. Crites proved himself capable of efficient work as a coach. In 1926, six games were played in which Central beat Dana, Cotner, Grand Island, and the University of Omaha; in turn she lost to Kearney and York. Throughout the season Central's team made a score of 68 points and her opponents scored 40 points against her. The next year, under Mr. Crites leadership, six games were fought with Dana, Kearney, Cotner, Grand Island, Omaha University and York. With a result of four victories for Nebraska Central, the total score won by Central that year was 105 and 48 for the opponents. In the next year, Central won only the first game and the year was one of disappointing defeats as was the



year following.

However, the method in which N.C.C. bore defeat attracted the admiration of her competitors. In spite of defeat, there was "no apparent flagging of interest in the student body, they preferring to keep up a fighting spirit of determination that belies the peaceful tone of their church doctrine." Another quality received notice from their opponents as shown by the following editorial from the Omaha University papers: "One of the finest things in athletics is the art of playing the game clean. The Central City Quakers deserve the highest praise for having grasped that art."

"The game last Saturday was one of the cleanest ever participated in by the Omaha team. To see three or four Quakers run and pick up an Omaha man out of the mud was one of the greatest things during the whole game."

"Fair play and good sportsmanship go to make a game really interesting. If we want a bloody battle we go to a prize fight or declare war and get out our guns and knives."

"We love good sportsmanship, Quakers, and you certainly showed us that you have it. Congratulations!"

Another article concerning Nebraska Central athletes appeared in the Lincoln State Journal, of Lincoln, Nebraska, February 24, 1928, and was written by W. G. Kline, a prominent athlete. "Way out in Central United States, in Central Nebraska, in Central City, is Nebraska Central College, founded, fostered and cherished by the Quakers. There are many things to be said about this institution, but I am writing only about its athletics. I have watched them for seventeen years, marveling at their fighting spirit against overwhelming odds."

"Twenty-eight boys are enrolled at Central this year of 1927-28, and they turned out a good football team, finishing fourth in a conference of fourteen. This team has finished higher than this and never at the bottom."

"They don't have a gym nor a basketball court, and yet these lads who have a reputation of many years for peace and quiet, take on all rivals, invading all the time; never at home."

"And how these Quakers do fight! William Penn must have an iron grip on the spirit if he isn't applauding this clean-minded, clean-fighting clan of Quakers out here where the West begins."



"I've always had a hunch that this sect opposed only the bad or wrong kind of fighting. Any team that whips this Nebraska Central College outfit has a battle on its hands. There isn't any passive resistance in evidence, either."

"The boys from Quakerland carry the fight to all of them from start to finish regardless of the score. They are never whipped and I've never seen any one of them make a dirty play or mucker remarks."

"They saw wood while the rest of us spin yarns. Central has no track for its track team, but they're "There" just the same."

"They don't have any money either, but that doesn't depress them in the least. Good sportsmanship and gentlemanly conduct characterize their game play. I don't know of a place in the world of sport where the golden rule is quite so well practiced as at Nebraska Central College."

"It's a pity some philanthropist doesn't endow them with a million dollars so they can carry on, on equal terms with their rival institutions. Money won't spoil them. They have the things money can't buy, but lack a lot of things they should have which money would buy."

"A fine football team and twenty-eight boys in school! A fighting basketball team and no basketball floor to play on! A track team and no track to run on! Hard to beat and always fighting. That is Nebraska Central College."

"Watch it somewhere if you can!"

The athletic association sponsored one benefit that was of unusual interest in 1929. Two nights of entertainment were given in the Donaldson theater when the play "Buster Keaton in College" was presented and between acts vaudeville features were given by pupils of Dist. 18, who were known as "Marion Emry's Tumblers." The comedy and the vaudeville features were enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience.

The religious life of the school was prominent during this period, but appeared in a somewhat different form than that known previously. The revival meetings that had been a part of the school program almost every year gave place to conferences and meetings for discussion on topics of personal religion and social responsibility; meetings for worship were also interspersed throughout these conferences. For a number of years a series of special pre-Easter meetings were arranged by



the Christians Association. An account of one such conference will give an idea of the general trend of the new method.

During the week of April 11-15, 1927, F. C. Stevenson, State Student Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association; C. D. Hayes, Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association of the University of Nebraska; and Harry Huntington, Methodist Student pastor of the University of Nebraska, were leaders at a conference at the college where each had a part in stressing the importance of spiritual emphases on Christian living and vocational guidance. Discussion groups met during the noon hour and in the evenings, each morning the cabinets met in a devotional meeting. Each day one of the speakers addressed the student body during the chapel period. Mr. Stevenson, on Monday, spoke on the parable of the talents. "We may be satisfied with a shallow experience but we may better experience if we develop power in our lives. Vitamins are essential to life; if we leave out spiritual food we will die just as surely as we die if we leave vitamins out of our diet." Mr. Hayes on Tuesday, emphasized the need of definite purpose. "When our lives are supplied with power, they need initial emotion and purpose. As soon as we definitely think of going in one direction, power flows in and there is a tendency to move in that direction until we begin to find God or be found by God; we begin with no beginning and end at no end." On Wednesday Mr. Huntington discussed business in relation to Christianity. "Business can never be Christian until it changes its goal from profits to service. Any business should be sacred, whatever work we go into we should have a high motive." On Thursday, Mr. Huntington said he saw two reasons for Christ's crucifixion; first, his driving the traders from the temple; second, his refusal to establish a temporal kingdom. He chose to strive for principles rather than for power and died as a result. Should Jesus go to the cross alone?" On Friday, Mr. Stevenson summed up the week's thought by challenging students to life in the fullest. "Pep without purpose is Piffle." Youths problem is to direct its enthusiasm into right channels. We must seek life at its best.

In various classes the visitors spoke on science and religion, relationship of men and women, how to choose a vocation, comparative religions, and many things growing out of these various lines of thought.

Pre-Easter speakers of other years include such men as Dr. A. V. Hunter and Kirby Page.



Another series of conferences that was held at the college for two or more years was that conducted under the Christian World Education Movement. In 1929, Dr. Gossard brought a message on "Why I am concerned about war". And Mr. Crobitt discussed the question, "Is America a Menace to World Peace?" In 1930, February 24 and 25 were given over to World Education friendship week programs. Stirring messages were brought by Rev. Harold Cooper, Student Pastor of Doane College at Crete, Nebraska; Margaret Read of England; and Frank T. Wilson, executive Negro student Y.M.C.A. secretary of the U.S.A. The local associations remained active in religious work. The Gospel team of the Y.M. often supplied the pulpit for various churches in Central City and surrounding towns. A decidedly spiritual atmosphere pervaded the school.

In no sense has Nebraska Central been more truly Quaker than in her adherence to the peace testimony of Friends and among the peace speakers who visited the college. None was more welcome than was Frederick J. Libbey of Washington, D. C., who, as the executive secretary of the national council for prevention of war, made several visits to the college. One of these visits was on February 3, 1927, when he gave three stirring addresses, discussing the problems that concerned the maintaining of peace. He discussed the various danger spots of Europe at that time and also the existing conditions in China and Japan.

The College Bulletin in the November, 1928 issue contained this statement. "One of the most gratifying features in the work of this college year is the interest being shown in the Christian activities of the college. Not for many years has there been such a keen interest manifested. The meetings of the association held each week are being largely attended and a definite program has been planned for the year's work. This program includes activity in relation to the college campus. The city and community and the participation in movements making for national and world betterment."

Dr. E. Ruth Hull, a graduate of the class of 1917, who was also an academy graduate, and for two years she was a member of the faculty of her Alma Mater, left October 5, 1928 for India where she took up her work as a medical missionary at Chhatapur in the providence of Bundelkhand where she had charge of the hospital and dispensary in the Mission. After her graduation from the college, she spent one year teaching at Plainview, then entered Penn College and completed a year



of work there. Then after the two years of teaching at Central she entered the medical college at the University of Nebraska, where she received her M.D. degree in 1925.

She then did a year of intern work in Boston, Massachusetts, and for the next two years was house physician in the Massachusetts State Reformatory for women at Framingham. Dr. Hull was a student volunteer while in college and through all her years of preparation had looked forward to the opportunity of entering upon this service. Her father, Dr. S.L. Hull, has been for many years a valued member and officer of the board of trustees of Nebraska Central College.

In the fall of 1928 Milo H. Crosbie was elected by the board of trustees of the college as alumni secretary, a position which he has held since that time.

The College Bulletin for February 1928, published a list of 82 students and members of the alumni who were then teaching.

In November 1929, Earl A. Rogers, a member of the junior class was declared to be the first young citizen of the state. This selection was made as a result of rigid tests given to each contestant. This honor to one of her students reflected honor also upon the college itself.

The school year of 1929-30 was marked by the deaths of three of the college community. Phillip A. Shedd, pastor of the Presbyterian church was giving a portion of his time as an instructor in the department of religious education was forced to give up his work when his health failed. His health continued to fail and death came that year.. A little later Irving Dickerson, a member of the freshman class was drowned at one of the sandpits near the river. In March, Sara Sinsel another freshman was stricken with spinal meningitis and lived only a few days. These deaths occurring at so nearly the same time cast a shadow over the entire school.



## PRESIDENTS OF NEBRASKA CENTRAL COLLEGE

D. Riley Haworth	1899-1901
D. B. Gilbert	1901-1902
Samuel Haworth	1902-1903
Emmet E. Hadley	1903-1904
Eli H. Parisho	1904-1908
Stacy J. McCracken	1908-1911
Stephen S. Myrick	1911-1912
Floyd W. Perisho	1912-1913
Eli H. Parisho	1913-1917
Homer J. Coppock	1917-1921
Ora W. Carrell	1921-1953

## FACULTY AND STAFF (NCC) 1899-1930

Name	Degrees	Position	Years Service
Anderson, E. Pearl	B.D.	Music-Elocution	1907-1908
Armstrong, Herbert E.		Athletic Dir.	
Beeman, John Whitney	B.A.	Chem., Phys.	1928-1930
Benton, Jessie		Piano	1922-1923
Boone, Winnifred		Matron	1923-1925
Boring, Ralph H.	B.A.	Religious Educ.	1926-1928
Bower, Mr. O.M.		Matron	1923-1925
Brown, H. Richard	B.S.	Math-Coach	1919-1920
Candee, Mabel		Music	1912-1913
Carrell, Golda O. Ruan	Ph.B., B.D.	Speech, Dramatics	
		Music, Phys. Ed.	1919-1953
Carrell, Ora W.	B.A., B.D.	Rel. Philosophy	1919-1953
		President	1921-1953
Coffin, Mary Louise	B.A.	Public Speaking	1918-1919
Colcord, H.G.		Band, Str. Instrum.	1911-1912
Coleman, Alice M.	B.A.	Greek, Eng., Librarian	1907-1913
Forrest D. Comfort	B.A.	Ed., Psych., Dean of Men	1922-1925
Coppock, Homer J.	B.A., M.A.	Hist., Philosophy	1916-1920
		President	1917-1921
Coppock, Mabel Care	B.A.	Friends History	1917-1920
Crites, Everett	B.S.	Math, P.E., Coach	1927-1929
Crosbie, Milo H.		Latin, German	1914-1953
Crosbie, Julia Mesner	B.A.	Latin, German	1911-1938
Culver, Vera	B.S.	Agriculture	1912-1913
Dedinsky, Brucia L.	B.A.	Lang., Hist., Dean of Women	1922-1924
Dell, Frank W.		Biblical Lit., Exegesis	1908-1911



Dowell, Laurietta	B.S.	Science, Math	1904-1905
Ellis, Charles E.	B.S.A., M.S.A.	Science, Math	1922-1930
Engstrom, Gale	B.A.	Latin, French, German	1907-1908
Foreman, Harry A.		Commercial	1912-1917
Foster, Jesse W.	B.P.	Art	1924-1927
Foxworthy, Estella	Ph.B.	History, French	1909-1913
Gibson, Wilfred D.	B.A.	Lit., Math	1904-1905
Griffin, H. Josephine	B.A., M.A.	Language	1903-1907
Hadley, Emmett E.	B.S.	Vice P., Math, Phil.	1902-1903
		President, Math, Phil.	1903-0904
Hadley, Mary M.	B.A.	Hist., Lit.	1902-1903
Harner, Willis H.	B.A., M.A.	Rel. Educ.	1929-1930
Hastings, Blanche	B.M.	Music	1913-1919
Hawk, Carl J.	B.S.	Math, Dean of Men	1925-1926
Haworth, Samuel		President	1902-1903
Hess, Frederick E.		Violin, Orchestra	1922-1925
Hockett, Stephen D.	B.S.	Science, Math	1907-1908
Holding, Raymond S.	B.A.	Spanish	1922-1924
Hottenstein, Emily K.	Ph.B.	Educ. Psych.	1928-1932
Hull, Ruth	B.A.	Sci, Librarian, Dean of Women	1919-1921
Hunnicut	B.A.	Math, Sci., Librarian	1915-1918
Hutchison, Vera B.		Art	1928-1930
Huxford, Mae A.		Piano	1911-1912
Hymmer, Clara B.		Dem. Sci.	1915-1916
Jenkins, Edith Painter		Music	1903-1904
Jenkins, Reba Elizabeth	B.A.	Hist., Lit., Music	1903-1904
Jessup, Edith M.	B.A., M.A.	Eng.	1924-1925
Jewell, Alta M.		Commercial	1908-1909
Jones, Harlan		Supt., B. & G. Coll. Treas.	1920-1923
			1929-1937
Jones, Raymond D.	B.A., M.A.	Phys. Sci., Dean of Men	1922-1923
Joyce, Jennie		Spanish, Librarian	1920-1921
Joyce, Rachel E.		Music	1907-1908
Kellogg, Mary	B.A.	Music, Expression	1906-1908
Kellogg, Portia		Math	1923-1925
Lenox, Rena		Matron	1919-1920
Loree, Robert H.	B.A.	Pub. Spkg., Athletics, Coach	1917-1918
Lowe, Ethel		Asst. in Math	1912-1913
Marshburn, Albert L.	B.A.	Latin, History	1912-1914
Martin, Marie		Violin	1919-1920
Mather, J. Winford	B.A.	Dir. Of Ath.	1924-1925
Matlock, Alice	B.S.	Sci., Math	1905-1906
Mattson, Cora	Ph.B.	Latin, French, German	1908-1909



May John M.		Sci., Agriculture	1910-1912
Meyerick, Stephen	B.L.	Pres., Math, Hist., Econ.	1911-1912
Mills, John D.	B.A.	Biblical Literature	1917-1918
Moore, Theodore L.		Dir., Phys. Educ.	1929-1932
Morgan, Leona	B.S.	Dom. Sci.	1913-1914
Murray, Earl	B.A.	Math	1921-1922
Myers, Harold W.	B.A.	Acad. Coach	1922-1924
McCracken, Stacy J.	B.S.	Vice-Pres., Phil, Hist, Ethics	1907-1911
Nettleton, Mrs. Daisy D.		Mus. Expression, Liter.	1902-1904
Olson, Nelle Owens		Violin	1921-1922
Overton, C. May	B.A.	Principal of Academy	1926-1927
Parisho, Eli H.		President	1904-1908
		President, Phil. History	1913-1917
Peckham, Errol D.	B.A.	English, Latin	1909-1910
Peters, J. Theo.	B.A.	Sci., Math, Dean of Men	1926-1928
Perisho, Floyd W.	B.S.	Math, Sci.	1908-1913
		Registrar	1910-1911
		President	1911-1912
Perry, Esek	B.A., B.D.	Rel., Econ., Soc., Registrar	1912-1913
Perry, Rev. V.M		Bible	1903-1905
Potter, M.D.		Music, Registrar (1910)	1909-1912
Pretlow, Clotilde L.	B.A., M.D.	Spanish, Dean of Women	1925-1931
Purdy, Edith	B.P.	Dom. Sci.	1917-1919
Roberts, Carolyn M.	B.A.	History	1902-1903
Roberts, Clyde E.		Librarian	1907-1908
Roberts, Mabel		Librarian	1912-1913
Ross, Bertha		Piano	1923-1924
Schwisow, Cora		Office Sec.	1923-1935
Sedan, T.J.		Commercial	1909-1911
Shedd, Philip N.	B.A., B.D.	Relig. Educ.	1928-1929
Smith, A.G.		Latin, German	1910-1914
Smith, Elvira		Bookkeeping	1919-1922
Smith, Mrs. Celia		Music	1904-1904
Solt, Guy		Treasurer	1924-1927
Solt, Leslie W.		Treasurer	1927-1928
Solt, Lillian A.		Secretary	1922-1923
Stratton, Debora	B.A.	Educ., Psych	1926-1928
Thornburg, Hazel	B.A.	Phys.Ed. Dean of Women	1928-1930
Townsend, Bertha		Commercial	1906-1908
Walker, John H.		Commercial	1905-1907
Watland, H. Helen	B.A.	Home Econ.	1924-1925
Whitely, Paul L.	B.A.	Educ., Coach	1920-1922
Wilder, James G.		Elocution, Oratory, P.E.	1905-1906



Will, Mayme E.			1902-1903
Williams, N.K.	B.S.	Science	1902-1903
Williams, Verdi		Arts & Music	1911-1913
Wilson, E.T.		Commercial	1907-1908
Winder, Mary Ida		Secy.	1920-1921
Woodward, J.S.	B.S.	English History	1916-1917

### NEBRASKA CENTRAL ACADEMY Alumni by Classes

#### 1900

Evans, Ed N.  
May, Mildred (Mrs. Earl Stacy)  
Stephen, Carrie (Mrs. E.N. Evans)

#### 1901

Baker, Lee  
Chapman, Mattie  
Collins, George  
Connor, Mabel (Mrs. Percy Burke)  
Hockett, Elma (Mrs. W. H. Green)  
Joyce, Clarice M. (Mrs. Elton B. Hoskins)  
Kellogg, Asabel S.  
Lebert, Fred C.  
Mesner, Charles Warren  
Mesner, Gilbert M.  
Nash, Frank R  
SorRells, Mary  
Wadsworth, Pearl  
Wilder, James. G.

#### 1902

Caldwell, Katherine  
Davis, Hal  
Emry, Harriet F.  
Ferris, Mamie (Mrs. Percy Gardner)  
Fraker, Bertha H. (Mrs. Herbert C. Hartzell)  
Joyce, Mabel (Mrs. James Stephen)  
Kellogg, Mary (Mrs. Errol D. Peckham)  
Schultz, Lou F. (Mrs. Clyde E. Roberts)  
Shelton, Clara

#### 1902 (Cont)

Townsend, Edna  
Wallis, Lillie A.  
Willeman, Verdi M.  
Wilson, Walter H.

#### 1904

Emry, Ella (Mrs. William Truesdell)  
Joyce, Rachel (Mrs. Vance Siler)  
Mesner, Julia M. (Mrs. Milo H. Crosbie)  
Roberts, Clyde Elvin

#### 1905

Crosbie, Milo H.  
Jewell, Alta L.  
Mesner, Frank D.  
Roberts, Mable A. (Mrs. Charles Grieve)

#### 1906

Crites, W. Frank  
Jackson, J. Clifford  
Mecay, Will  
Myers, Mabel  
Reeves, Mary L. (Mrs. Neil McMillan)  
Townsend, Bertha E. (Mrs. Percy L. Davis)  
Wilder, Clara G. (Mrs. William Everett)  
Wildman, Lela M. (Mrs. David McMurrin)



1907

Adams, Elmer S.  
Davis, Harry G.  
Ellis, William Albert  
Finch, Iona M. (Mrs. M. William Perry)  
Grieve, Charles E.  
Grieve, Clifford A.  
Renmaker, Nofle W.  
Roberts, Lucy A. (Mrs. Lee Pinkhard)  
Wilder, Charles H.

1908

Crosbie, Clarence S.  
Davis, Percy L.  
Grieve, William A.  
Harris, Jessie A.  
Jones, Charles  
Mesner, Hugh P.  
Mesner, John E.  
Potee, Harvey  
Roberts, Josepha (Mrs. C. Snow Mathis)  
Remy, Davis S.  
SorRells, Adaline

1909

Caldwell, Floy (Mrs. Emmett Frescholt)  
Caldwell, Rosina (Mrs. George Moore)  
Collins, Sidney (Mrs. Walter Hamlin)  
Hoskins, Edith (Mrs. Paul A. Mendenhall)  
Jackson, Edith (Mrs. Aldis Tucker)  
Jefferson, Frank  
Mendenhall, Alice (Mrs. E. Worth Coulson)  
Myers, Frank  
Porter, Frank  
Rash, Grace (Mrs. Havener)  
Schroeder, John B.  
Shelton, Harry B.  
Townsend, Hazel (Mrs. R. R. Potee)  
Townsend, Murray  
Tucker, Aldis J.  
Willeman, Ernest M.

1910

Campbell, Robert  
Clark, Estelle  
Collins, Ella (Mrs. William Grieve)  
Gaw, Jennie (Mrs. Jake Benner)  
Hockett, Maude (Mrs. William Pratt)  
Hoopingarner, Willis  
Joyce, Stanley  
Mendenhall, Paul A.  
Mesner, Raymond E.  
Millsap, Ruth (Mrs. Frank Zimmerman)  
Remy, Alice  
Reynolds, Mary (Mrs. John Roberts)  
Roberts, Alma  
Van Sickle, Alice (Mrs. Edgar Daily)

1911

Branaman, Harold  
Hadley, Evadine (Mrs. Hubert Peckham)  
Hockett, Lindel C.  
Johns, Edith  
Johnson, Edith  
Lowe, Edith (Mrs. Floyd W. Perisho)  
Marsh, Earl C.  
Myers, Esther (Mrs. Elmer Watkins)  
Roberts, Martha (Mrs. Edklund)  
Stephen, Lillian (Mrs. Lee Van Zant)  
Van Sickle, Ida (Mrs. Dan Hartford)  
Wegner, Edward

1912

Baldwin, Earl  
Bice, Lawrence S.  
Campbell, Franklyn B.  
Douglas, M. Josephine  
Ellis, Ora (Mrs. Albert L. Marshburn)  
Gibson, Raymond  
Halling, Otto  
Hanson, Gurney F.  
Hockett, Alta (Mrs. George Johns)  
Hockett, Clara (Mrs. Charles Wilder)  
Holtz, Emmett



1912 (Cont)

Mack, Donzella (Mrs. Paul Engel)  
Quisenberry, Gladys  
Rash, Roy H.  
Workman, Wilma (Mrs. Esek Perry)

1913

Barnes, J. Ray  
Carter, Halliene  
Clements, Curtis M.  
Kanter, Emma J.  
Lindahl, R. Myrtle  
Perisho, Lester T.  
Retzlaff, Henry E.  
Smith, O. Keith  
Sullivan, Wyndham  
Watkins, Grace C. (Mrs. Raymond Gibson)  
Watkins, Lois G. (Mrs. Hugh P. Mesner)

1914

Finch, Mildred (Mrs. Hoopingarner)  
Haun, Zeola (Mrs. Roselins)  
Hull, Ruth (Mrs. Claude Bennett)  
Marsh, Erma Lucille (Mrs. Raymond D. Mesner)  
Mesner, Bessie A. (Mrs. J.R. Barnes)  
Myers, Harold  
Tappan, Allen  
Tappan, Cyrenus

1915

Angier, S. E.  
Burrows, Rebecca M.  
Cogswell, Ruby  
Hanson, Garland  
Hensley, Myrtle Naomi (Mrs. James Jefferson)  
Jackson, Ruth (Mrs. Paul Reece)  
Mesner, Lillie Belle (Mrs. Marion F. Marsh)  
Moore, Floyd Eugene  
Perisho, Ermin C.  
Puckett, Lena E. (Mrs. William Engel)  
Rodin, Clarence  
Townsend, Leslie Loren

1915 (Cont)

Waggener, LeRoy G.  
Young, Park

1916

Bales, Nellie E. (Mrs. Charles Foley)  
Campbell, Glenn A.  
Campbell, Merton  
Engel, Emma (Mrs. Paul McDill)  
Engel, Paul G.  
Gibson, Ray E.  
Hanson, Howard Elroy  
Holmes, Otto  
Johnston, Ralph E.  
Jones, Harlan T.  
McKinsey, Edna (Mrs. VanSickle)  
Parisho, Honor (Mrs. Elroy Hanson)  
Puckett, Fay A.  
Puckett, Florence (Mrs. Ernest M. Willeman)  
Sullivan, Virginia (Mrs. Lyle Ferris)  
Wilder, W. Fred

1917

Bennett, Clara Lois (Mrs. Craig B Moore)  
Cook, Arthur Clark  
Fieselman, Viola Adeline (Mrs. Sinsel)  
Foreman, Harry Alden  
Johns, George A.  
Marsh, Elizabeth Marie (Mrs. Dan Jensen)  
Millsap, Paul Alva  
Moore, Roy George  
Myers, S. Inez (Mrs. Edward Mills)  
Sheley, Rosa Myrle (Mrs. Ralph Lapham)  
Smith, Ralph Wilber  
Tappan, Grace (Mrs. Lindel C. Hockett)  
Wright, John W.



1918

Davis, Nan (Mrs. Will Gagle)  
Hanson, William Edwin  
Holtz, Maurine (Mrs. Bullis)  
Hoover, Grace (Mrs. Madsen)  
McDill, Ruth (Mrs. Hathorne)  
Marsh, Marion F.  
Puckett, Orpha (Mrs. Lindley J. Larrance)  
Rberts, Sadie

1919

Engle, Mary H. (Mrs. Warren M. Wiley)  
Gagle, Nellie E. (Mrs. Davis)  
Holtz, Hazel  
Lenox, Bernice (Mrs. Jack Springer)  
Morrison, Laurel

1920

Campbell, Earl W.  
Clark, Doris Irene (Mrs. Luther Charron)  
Ferguson, Mary V. (Mrs. Harold W. Myers)  
Fisher, Mildred L.  
Kingston, Lee W.  
Mesner, Angie S.  
Moore, William S.  
Osborn, Phoebe  
Schutz, Wesley  
Tuning, Gladys Ruth (Mrs. Henry Engel)  
Turnby, Faye Marie (Mrs. Wyman)

1921

Bender, Doris F.  
Benton, Merl J.  
Campbell, Leona (Mrs. Charles Lamm)  
Crouch, Velma  
Crouch, Viola  
Engel, Henry  
Evans, Harold J.  
Holtz, R. Dean  
Kenworthy, Elsie L.  
Moon, Turner F.  
Moore, Craig Bryan  
Sheley, Alva E.

1921 (Cont)

Smith, Alfred P.  
Turner, Mildred F. (Mrs. Dan. A. Neifert)  
Wood, Gerald H.

1922

Clark, Iva L. (Mrs. C. L. Eastwood)  
Johnston, Ruth A. (Mrs. William A. Cronk)  
Kingston, Lee W.  
Kyes, Howard R.  
Marsh, Warren  
Mesner, Ralph W.  
Scofield, Cecil  
Sluiter, Alice A. (Mrs. Charles L. Warringer)  
Solt, Guy W.  
Tuning, Joseph C.  
Turnby, Violette M.  
Wagner, Frances F. (Mrs. Joe Hanna)  
Way, Robert F.  
Widman, Perna (Mrs. L. L. Burns)

1923

Clark, Verda M.  
Eaton, Josephine  
Emry, Marion S.  
Ferguson, Hazel M. (Mrs. Ross Roberts)  
Hanson, Ronald C.  
Holding, Helen M. (Mrs. Wesley Schutz)  
Jones, Vern E.  
McAfee, Josephine (Mrs. Moser)  
Marsh, Portia (Mrs. Ted Reeves)  
Myers, Leona (Mrs. Arley G. Scofield)  
Neifert, Dan A.  
Roberts, Beanna (Mrs. Clarence Emry)  
Roberts, Emma J. (Mrs. Howard R. Kyes)  
Roberts, Vera E.  
Scofield, Arley G.  
Way, Dessa (Mrs. Vern E. Jones)



1924

Dykstra, Stella Irene  
Ellis, H. Gladys (Mrs. Lyle Rainforth)  
Garrett, Esther M. (Mrs. Lester Snodgrass)  
Good, Lane Giles  
Johnson, Clara E. (Mrs. Howard Peterson)  
Jones, Leroy W.  
Morrison, Clifford H.  
Pennoyer, Willard Hammond  
Puckett, Guy  
Smith, Eldred C.  
Smith, Everest G.  
Tuning, Arnold F.

1925

Benton, Ralph A.  
Castle, Allie Mae  
Creech, Esther Virginia  
Eckles, Omar  
Ellis, Don E.  
Ellis, Edith I. (Mrs. Comfort)  
Ellis, Lee E.  
Frances E. Emry  
Ferguson, John H.  
Lenox, Eileen D. (Mrs. Bob Harland)  
McAfee, Arvilla (Mrs. Scofield)  
McClue, Maggie M.  
Nyberg, Beulah  
Peterson, William T.  
Roberts, Verlie (Mrs. Bell)  
Henry D. Schutz  
Sluiter, Ada E. (Mrs. Lee E. Ellis)  
Stephen, James Jr  
Tilton, Opal  
Turner, Gladys May (Mrs. Edwards)  
Watkins, Charles H. Jr.  
Watkins, Helen M. (Mrs. Don E. Ellis)  
Way, Mable A. (Mrs. Johnston)  
Wedman, Julia V. (Mrs. Glen Williams)  
Yeik, Mabella A.

1926

Benton, Ruth  
Comfort, Ralph H.  
Denman, Howard  
Ferguson, Dale  
Hockett, Esther E.  
Perrel, Agnes L.  
Potter, Helen M.  
Schwisow, I. Cora (Mrs. Wm. Ed Hanson)  
Schutz, Marie C.  
Tilton, Margaret S. (Mrs. Dale Ferguson)

1927

Dittnick, Robert S.  
Hanson, Lulu Elma  
Scofield, Donald C.  
Tuning, Edna Mae  
Ward, Arvid  
Watkins, Wilma M. (Mrs. Vigo Jensen)  
Weeks, Fred C.

1928

Emry, Orville E.  
Holtz, Arthur Dale  
Myers, Margaret  
Wright, Joseph McCormack

1929

Clem, Clifford L.  
Hockett, Florence  
Von Aschwege, Lydia



# NEBRASKA CENTRAL COLLEGE

## Alumni by Classes

1903

Hill, William Earl  
Lucas, Thomas M.

1906

Kellogg, Mary (Mrs. Errol Peckham)

1907

Lebert, Fred C.  
Mesner, Gilbert M.

1909

Crosbie, Milo H.  
Mesner, Charles W.  
Roberts, Clyde E.  
Roberts, Lou Schultz

1910

Perry, M. William

1911

Grieve, Charles E.  
Joyce, Clarice (Mrs. Elton B. Hoskins)  
Mesner, Julia M. (Mrs. Milo H. Crosbie)

1913

Foxworthy, Theodore  
Roberts, Frank D.  
Roberts, Mabel (Mrs. Charles E. Grieve)

1914

Jones, John S.

1915

Halling, Otto  
Lowe, Ethel (Mrs. Floyd Perisho)

1917

Clements, Curtis  
Hanson, Gurney Frederick  
Hockett, Lindel C.  
Hull, Ruth (Mrs. Claude Bennett)  
Woodward, Laurence H.

1918

Perisho, Ermin C.  
Roberts, Alma (Mrs. Paul A. Mendenhall)

1919

Jones, J. Arvid  
Oakley, Agnes (Mrs. Otis Hoyt)  
Perisho, Mary (Mrs. Earl Marsh)

1920

Hanson, Garland  
Waggener, Leroy G.

1921

Myers, Harold

1922

Smith, R. Wilber  
Winder, Mary Ida (Mrs. Glover)

1923

Hanson, Wm. Edwin  
Jones, Harlan T.  
Puckett, Orpha Marie (Mrs. Lindley Larrance)  
Smith, Mrs. Wilber (Elvira J.)

1924

Barnes, J. Ray  
Bennett, Clara L. (Mrs. C. Bryan Moore)  
Engle, Mary (Mrs. Warren M. Wiley)  
Marsh, Elizabeth (Mrs. Daniel Jensen)  
Tuning, Gladys Ruth (Mrs. Henry Engel)  
Way, Mary Elizabeth



1925

Bales, Nellie E. (Mrs. Charles E. Foley)  
Mott, J. Evelyn (Mrs. Henry D. Schutz)  
Schutz, Wesley W.  
Smith, Alfred Perr

1926

Benton, Merl J.  
Drinkall, Leone (Mrs. Ronald C. Hanson)  
Morrison, Laurel  
Myers, Leona (Mrs. Arly G. Scofield)  
Packwood, Ruth (Mrs. Grant Scofield)  
Scofield Cecil  
Solt, Guy W.  
Turnby, Violette M. (Mrs. George S. Blattman)

1927

Johnston, Floyd W.  
Mesner, Ralph W.  
Mueller, Irene M.  
Neifert, Daniel A.  
Turner, Mildred (Mrs. Daniel Neifert)

1928

Ellis, Don E.  
Marsh, Portia (Mrs. Theodore Reeves)  
Matson, Elizabeth O. (Mrs. Bruce Gage)  
Puckett, Guy L.  
Watkins, Helen (Mrs. Don Ellis)

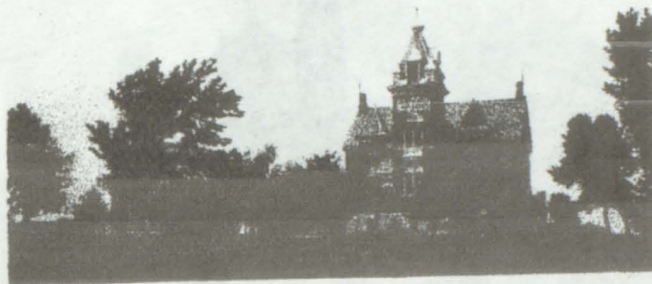
1929

Bishop, George Curtis  
Ferguson, John H.  
Heaton, Patrick James  
Mott, Horace G.  
Samuelson, Dr. Fredolf F.  
Waters, Ivan B.  
Wilson, Estellene (Mrs. Harold Cathcart)

1930

Hawkes, Kenneth E.  
Miller, Letha (Mrs. Harold L. Richards)  
Moore, Theodore Lynn  
Richards, Harold Lee  
Tuning, Arnold F.  
Turnby, Madeline (Mrs. Erwin Rembolt)





### Old Gold and Maroon

A fine Quaker College stands out on the plain  
Away from the rush of the town  
Of "Central" Nebraska, for this is the name  
Of this beautiful place of renown,  
This school is the home of the merriest band  
Of students the world has e're known,  
As they walk, as they stand, as they go hand in hand  
They oft sing in harmonious tone.

Our colors are charming and richly they blend  
And ever to them we'll be true.  
Each year men and women we cheerfully send  
From our halls, noble labors to do.  
Our watchword is "Onward," we've no time to wait,  
Ere long a bright message will bring  
To our town, to our state, to our nation is great,  
We will loudly, triumphantly sing.

"Old Gold and Maroon", yes, "Old Gold and Maroon"  
We will stand by our school, we'll observe every rule,  
We'll be heard from soon.

The people shall know we are moving along  
Shall know that we're in tune.

"Our voices do ring, as we joyfully sing,  
"Old Gold and Maroon."





700

COLLEGE 1899



NEBRASKA CENTRAL COLLEGE CENTRAL CITY, NEB

1911 or 1912





JOSEPH AND ANNIE JOYCE HOME ON COLLEGE SECTION



SARAH HOSKINS HOME ON COLLEGE SECTION 1915

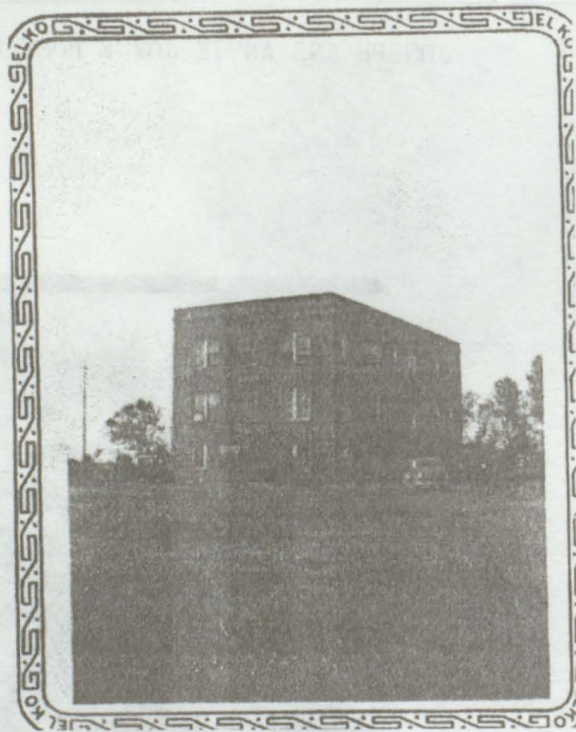




Whittier Hall and Old Main



Phelps Hall



Hord Hall





### Graduation Academy Class 1901

Back row, Left to right: Gilbert Mesner, Fred Lebert, Charles Mesner, George Collins,  
2<sup>nd</sup> row: Asabel Kellogg, James Wilder, Mabel Connor, Reily Haworth, College Pres., Pearl Haworth, Frank Nash, Lee Baker,  
Front row: Mattie Chapman, Elma Hockett, Clarice Joyce, Mary SorRells





First Faculty of Nebraska Central College and Academy

Daisy Nettleton, Lorena Hathaway, Alvin Macy, E. A. Spear, AraBelle Perryman,  
Carol Roberts, Riley Haworth, Herbert Mott, Ross Pickett



Faculty 1909-1910

Floyd Perisho, Estelle Foxworthy, M.D. Potter, Frank Dell, Alice Coleman, Erroll D. Peckham





President Ora W. and Golda O. Ruan Carrell



Julia M. and Milo H. Crosbie





Entire Student Body 1916-1917



Students and Faculty circa 1920





Track Team



Back Row: 1<sup>st</sup> John Mesner; 4<sup>th</sup> Hugh Mesner,  
Middle Row: Lee (Polly) VanZant, 3<sup>rd</sup> Frank Roberts, 5<sup>th</sup> Ray Barnes  
Front Row: 1<sup>st</sup> Faye Puckett, 3<sup>rd</sup> Olin Finch, 4<sup>th</sup> Ernest Willeman





College Council 1927-1928



Women's Athletic Association 1927-1928



Guy Puckett, Portia Marsh, Don Ellis, Betty Mattson, Helen Watkins





May Festivals





MAY FESTIVAL







Academy Class of 1913

Lester Perisho, Ray Barnes, Curtis Clements, Wyndham Sullivan,  
Grace Watkins, Professor Floyd Perisho, Lois G. Watkins



1921 Graduation



